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Ex-Intern Said to Get Subpoena From Starr

Indignant About Leaks, President to Ask Court To Punish Prosecutors

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Monica Lewinsky is scheduled to appear Thursday before a federal grand jury investigating allegations that President Bill Clinton had an affair with her and then asked her to lie about it.

The former White House intern had been subpoenaed more than a week ago to testify, but with talks aimed at gaining her cooperation then under way, prosecutors had held off on scheduling her appearance. When those talks broke off last week, prosecutors set the date, sources told The Associated Press.

Ms. Lewinsky is expected to return from California, where she is visiting her father.

The legal wrangling around the case also continued Monday with the Clinton administration prepared to take a major step in its counterattack against the credibility of prosecutors.

"We've had a series of mischaracterizations, misstatements, inaccurate information," Ann Lewis, the White House communications director, said on ABC-TV. "That's exactly why David Kendall, who's the president's lawyer, is going to court today to seek a remedy."

The White House said Monday that Mr. Kendall, a private attorney for Mr. Clinton, would file a sealed motion with the federal district court here asking that the office of Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, be found in contempt for illegally revealing secret grand jury proceedings to reporters. The motion sought criminal sanctions against the source or sources of any leaks.

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, the office of the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, confirmed that House Republican leaders last week discussed funding to hire investigators and staff members for the Judiciary Committee if Mr. Starr provides evidence to the panel that could lead to impeachment proceedings.

Should Ms. Lewinsky testify before the grand jury Thursday, it would be the most electrifying development in what has been an explosive case. For now, however, that appears unlikely.

Ms. Lewinsky's attorneys bad been negotiating with the independent counsel's office for an offer of legal immunity for her in exchange for her testimony, but the talks broke down late last

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A Surprising Legal Aide in Clinton Case

Paula Jones Suit Won't Be 'Parade of Women,' Judge's Husband Says

By Lois Romano
Washington Post Service

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — Last spring, when lawyers in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit met privately with the presiding judge, U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright, they were joined by a surprising observer — the judge's husband, Robert Wright, a law professor.

Some of the lawyers later told colleagues they were stunned by his presence. But many other lawyers in Little Rock, where the lawsuit against President Bill Clinton is being heard, believe Mr. Wright plays a significant role in his wife's decision-making, and he does not dispute it.

Judge Wright, 49, could be the first judge in history to try a case against a sitting president, and a two-hour conversation with her husband provided considerable insight into her thinking.

Over lunch last week, Mr. Wright said he was not speaking for his wife but made it clear that they discuss the matters before her and that he has offered suggestions for her rulings.

He said he helped his wife with a written memorandum for a key ruling in the early stages of the Jones case — that it should not go to trial until after Mr. Clinton had left office. The Supreme Court overruled the ruling in May.

Mr. Wright described his wife as having confronted the reality of her role and its possible implications for Mr. Clinton

Alpine Skiing Snowed Out

Nagano's Quirky Weather Delays All Mountain Events

By Bob Baum
The Associated Press

HAKUBA, Japan — A month ago, the mayor of Hakuba led the people of his village and Olympic officials in a prayer ceremony asking the gods for snow. The gods have obliged, and then some.

On Sunday and Monday, huge flakes cascaded from the sky, transforming the Japanese Alps into a glorious winter landscape, but wreaking havoc on the Alpine skiing schedule.

Not a single Alpine race has run. First, the men's downhill scheduled for Sunday was postponed. On Monday, the men's combined slalom and the women's snowboarding giant slalom were canceled and rescheduled for Tuesday, with the two runs sandwiched around the women's super-G.

The men's downhill is now scheduled for Wednesday. That pushed back the downhill portion of the men's combined to Thursday.

"It's just a crazy place where you have to deal with some pretty tough coastal weather systems," said Ed Podivinsky, a Canadian who was bronze medalist in the downhill at the 1994 Olympics.

In the quirky Japanese winter, though, all was subject to change.

At daybreak Monday, the thickly falling snow left a wet, cool glaze on the earnest faces of the

See SNOW, Page 22



GOLDEN SLED — George Hackl of Germany winning his third Olympic gold medal in the luge on Monday. Page 22.

3,000 U.S. Troops Slated for Kuwait But Leading Republican Calls For Other Ways to Rein In Iraq

Reuters

MUSCAT, Oman — U.S. commanders have requested up to 3,000 ground troops for deployment to Kuwait in the crisis with Iraq, officials traveling with Defense Secretary William Cohen said Monday.

The soldiers are a precaution to protect the Gulf state from any Iraqi response to the campaign of air strikes that Washington is planning, a senior military official said.

General Anthony Zinni of the Marine Corps, who commands U.S. forces in the Middle East, asked the Pentagon for the troops and the request is being processed, a Pentagon spokesman said.

"Unless Iraq's policies change, we will have no choice but to take strong measures," she said in a speech in Washington. "Do not doubt: We have the authority to do this, the responsibility to do this and the means and the will."

But Mrs. Albright stressed that the goal was specifically to disrupt President Saddam Hussein's plans to make biological and chemical weapons and missiles to carry them, and not, as some Americans have urged, to overthrow the Iraqi leader.

She said that "the administration does not agree with those who suggest we should deploy hundreds of thousands of American troops to engage unilaterally in a ground war in Iraq aimed at goals that could not be achieved" in the 1991 Gulf War.

The Republican majority leader in the U.S. Senate, Trent Lott, said Monday that the White House ought to explore alternatives to military action against Iraq, including efforts to turn the Iraqi public against its leaders.

While Congress still intends to pass a bipartisan resolution to demonstrate unity behind President Clinton's policies, the Mississippi senator suggested other actions could be taken that would fall between diplomatic negotiation and the use of military force.

He said he would like the United States to "find ways to limit" Mr. Saddam's "ability to spew his venom to the people and have a 'Radio Free Iraq,' for instance." Mr. Lott said the actions could include jamming of Iraqi radio broadcasts or U.S. broadcasts into Iraq to counter Mr. Saddam's message.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, said six F-117A Stealth fighters, six F-16 fighters, six B-52 heavy bombers and one B-1 bomber would start leaving by midweek to augment the force of more than 300 U.S. planes already in the Gulf region.

The ground troops, infantrymen from Fort Hood, Texas, would join about 1,500 U.S. soldiers in Kuwait for Intrinsic Action, a permanent joint exercise between U.S. and Kuwaiti forces.

An amphibious force of about 2,200 Marines, aboard four vessels led by the Guam, an amphibious assault ship, is on its way to the Gulf from the Mediterranean. But under current plans these troops would not come ashore.

Asked when all U.S. forces would be in place in the Gulf, the official said: "We're looking at a week to 10 days."

The officials were speaking aboard Mr. Cohen's plane shortly before he landed in Oman on the third leg of a Gulf tour to brief regional leaders on the plans his commanders are preparing.

The Kuwaiti and Bahraini governments are willing to let U.S. combat planes operate from their territory but,

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Suharto Talks Up Economy as Unrest Spreads

Protesters Target Ethnic Chinese

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

JAKARTA — With rioters burning down shops in the east of the country and protesters in front of the Central Bank here defiantly shouting against high prices, President Suharto hinted at new steps on Monday to try to shore up the currency and combat the rising prices of imported goods.

In brief remarks after a meeting with Muslim clerics, Mr. Suharto said, "We will decide a certain rate to allow companies to make correct calculations" for exports.

He gave no details, but suggested that new exchange rate terms could soon be set that would target raw materials needed to restart the stalled export manufacturing sector, as well as imported goods like medicines that have become prohibitively expensive for many here since the currency collapsed last year.

Spreading unrest in the provinces and mounting discontent in the capital pose the gravest challenge yet to the Mr. Suharto, 76, the world's longest-serving leader after Fidel Castro.

In exactly a month, Mr. Suharto is expected to be unanimously appointed to another five-year term by an assembly whose members he himself largely appointed. But the plunge of the currency has sent prices soaring and stalled much of the country's productive business activity, and has left the gov-

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Demonstrators marching from Jakarta's central bank Monday to protest against high prices.

AGENDA

Shevardnadze Survives Attack

TBILISI, Georgia (AFP) — President Eduard Shevardnadze survived an assassination attempt Monday in the Georgian capital, the Iprinda news agency reported.

Reports indicate that Mr. Clinton's advances toward Ms. Lewinsky "were not unwelcome — that they were consensual, which is not what Paula Jones is alleging," said Mr. Wright, 66, the Donaghey distinguished professor of law school at Little Rock.

Mr. Wright said he believed his wife would limit evidence on Mr. Clinton's personal life "to women who worked for the state or federal government" who may have been the subject of unwanted advances from Mr. Clinton.

"From what I've heard, a lot of Bill Clinton's women have been satisfied customers," he added.

As for criticism that he is too involved

in the Jones case, he said he is too involved

in the Jones case.

The IHT on-line www.iht.com

German Economists' Plea Probably Won't Stop Euro

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — The large but largely ignored proportion of German voters who are hostile about adopting the single European currency, the euro, received a jolt of support this weekend when 155 German economists, including the chairman and four members of a top advisory council to the Economics Ministry, pleaded for a delay in the project.

Nevertheless, most experts continue to believe that the single currency will debut as scheduled next Jan. 1, because political leaders across Europe have invested too much in the effort to turn back now.

Despite polls showing that more than 70 percent of Germans are unhappy about the euro, the opposition Social Democratic Party has thus far refused to make the euro a campaign issue because voters appear too resigned to put up much of a fight.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who has staked his career on launching the euro next year and has paid little heed to the widespread popular unease among voters about giving up their trusted Deutsche marks, on Monday briskly dismissed the economists' plea, saying that "the euro will come just as we have agreed in various treaties."

In their statement, published over the weekend in several newspapers, the economists argued that too many European countries had yet to get their fiscal houses in order and that the instruments for enforcing economic discipline in the monetary union were not credible.

The group said it did not oppose the euro as such, but called for a delay until countries reduced their budget deficits safer levels.

If the euro cannot be delayed, they said, then only a small number of countries should be allowed to participate at the beginning. That would probably

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Afghan Villagers Fleeing Quake Zone

Courtesy of Our Staff From Dispatches

HAJAGHAR, Afghanistan — Fearing more tremors, hundreds of villagers were fleeing remote northeastern Afghanistan on Monday following an earthquake last week and aftershocks that killed thousands.

A Pakistani Air Force cargo plane brought the first major emergency aid to the stricken Rustak district, 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of the capital, Kabul. Other foreign aid workers were trekking overland on donkeys and horses.

An official with the military alliance that controls Takhar Province said Monday that at least 4,000 people had been killed. Previous estimates of the number killed by Wednesday's quake, which had a magnitude of 6.1, and subsequent tremors ranged from 2,000 to 5,000.

"The damage is enormous," Bart Olyny, a representative of the French

group Doctors Without Borders, said by telephone from the area.

"It's a major emergency. Time is running out. We have no idea how many people are homeless and wounded, but the death toll is certain to exceed 4,000."

Twenty villages were destroyed or damaged when the tremors touched off devastating landslides, said Qari Amir Aliam, who met the cargo flight at Hajaghar airstrip, 40 kilometers west of the affected area.

Thousands of homeless are suffering in temperatures below freezing.

"The dead bodies now are frozen," Mr. Aliam said. "We must dig them up and bury them properly."

Aid workers were initially skeptical about the high casualty figures that officials gave, noting that the region was sparsely populated and that officials in the past had exaggerated natural dis-



Workers unloading relief supplies from a plane Monday at Hajaghar.

Newsstand Prices		
Bahrain.....1.00	BD Malta.....55 c	
Cyprus.....C £ 1.00	Nigeria.....1200 Naira	
Denmark.....14.00 DKR	Oman.....1.250 DOR	
Finland.....12.00 FM	Qatar.....10.00 QR	
Greece.....£ 0.85 Rep. Ireland.....IR £ 1.00	Saudi Arabia.....10 SR	
Great Britain.....£ 5.50	S. Africa.....R12 + VAT	
Egypt.....£ 1.250 JD	U.A.E.....10.00 Dh	
Jordan.....1.250 K. SH. 160 U.S. M.R.\$ 1.20	Kuwait.....700 fils Zimbabwe.....Zm \$40.00	

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Big Bird, Meet Da Niao / U.S. Children's Show Charms China

Can You Tell Me How to Get to 'Zhima Jie'?

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — Ding Xiaoyi, a Shanghai doctor who usually watches only sports and news on television, was flipping channels last week when he saw a fluffy, tall yellow bird talking to some children in a street scene. He called his 3-year-old daughter, Shunhui.

"She watched without blinking," Mr. Ding said. "She loved it. At the end she asked, 'Is there any more?'"

With last week's debut of a Chinese version of "Sesame Street" and Big Bird's virtually identical cousin, Da Niao, the Children's Television Workshop, which originated the hugely popular educational program "Sesame Street" in the United States, broke into its 17th international market and immediately won new fans among Chinese children and parents.

"The show is different from Chinese programs for children," Mr. Ding said. "It was lively, light-hearted and entertaining, yet educational. Normally, educational programs in China are very serious."

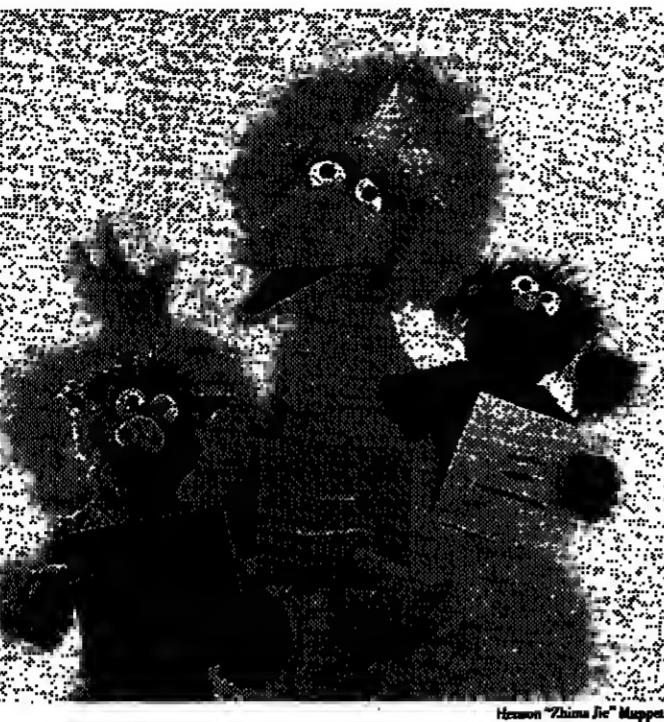
The program is unusual in a country where the media in general and television in particular are closely controlled by the Communist Party. Education is a particularly sensitive topic, and the government has been advocating a higher level of "spiritual civilization" and Chinese values among young people. Indeed, many of working with an American television group, Chinese Central Television and Beijing Television both rejected proposals to co-produce a Chinese version of "Sesame Street" before Shanghai Television seized the opportunity.

"It's been four years since we began," said Ye Chao, the co-producer of the show and head of Shanghai Television's children's programming. "Throughout the time, there is always somebody asking me whether the show is too Americanized. I don't think so at all. Television as a medium transcends the boundaries of countries."

Besides, Mr. Ye added, the program produced here is "very Chinese." About three-quarters of the program originates in Shanghai and the rest is selected from the "Sesame Street" archives by Shanghai Television and translated into Chinese.

Teachers and psychologists met for three days before production began hammering out a "curriculum" for the program, including special emphasis on aesthetics and such themes as cooperation — especially important for children raised in the era of China's one-child policy.

But to keep its content faithful to the "Sesame



The Chinese equivalent of Big Bird, Da Niao, with his friends Hu Hu Zhu, left, and Xiao Meizi, and holding the characters for the numbers 1, 2 and 3.

Street" formula, the scripts were reviewed and often revised in New York.

"Writing for 'Sesame Street' is a special style," said Cooper Wright, a producer at Children's Television Workshop.

The Shanghai writers were used to longer, more serious scripts. "It was difficult for them to write something that was three minutes or less, was funny and had a punch line," Mr. Wright said.

In its Chinese incarnation, "Sesame Street" — translated literally into Chinese as "Zhima Jie" — stars Da Niao (literally "big bird"), who loves to eat bird-seed cookies, lives in a nest in a park, and is friendly and cheerful.

"We thought a long time about which main character to choose," said Mr. Ye of Shanghai Television. "We hesitated about Da Niao. We thought about a monkey or a panda — all of

these traditional things. But we eventually decided to choose Big Bird because he is a very beautiful and attractive character."

Da Niao's friends, Muppets with Chinese characteristics, include Hu Ho Zhi ("puffing pig") and Xiao Meizi ("little plum"), both created in cooperation with Jim Henson Productions.

The messages of the show aren't controversial, but the program has some unusual aspects. In many Chinese television programs, minorities in this overwhelmingly Han Chinese nation are often portrayed in a condescending or pejorative fashion.

By contrast, "Zhima Jie" last week included an installment on a Mongolian boy learning to play a traditional string instrument from his horse-father father. The scene seemed natural and not stereotyped. Another segment portrayed a blind boy who outwits the other characters who try to identify various fruits while blindfolded.

In addition, the program flies in the face of Chinese and, in general, Asian presumption that students succeed at all costs. "Zhima Jie" included a segment about cartoon characters pushing a rock up a hill and failing, although they tried their best. Da Niao, the Big Bird character, also tries valiantly, though unsuccessfully, to perform some tasks, such as playing soccer goalie against one of the program's children.

General Electric chipped in about \$3 million to be listed as the show's sponsor, which will probably turn out to be cheap advertising. Shanghai Television invested \$1.2 million in "Zhima Jie" and devoted its biggest studio to producing it. The station, which reaches tens of millions of viewers and hopes to syndicate the show to other cities later this year, stands to make millions of dollars on "Zhima Jie."

When syndication rights are offered this time, Beijing television will probably be interested.

Jewish Group Returns to Germany

Reuters

BERLIN — A prominent American Jewish official said Monday that the thousands of Jews arriving in Germany from Eastern Europe would help guard against far-right extremism.

The official, David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, said at a ceremony to open the council's first office in Germany since the Nazi era that Germany had the world's fastest growing Jewish community.

Jewish life is again making its presence felt in Germany, the country's president, Roman Herzog, was to say at the ceremony.

"There is a chance that this Jewish life can once again become an integral part of German culture and society," Mr. Herzog said, according to a copy of his speech released in advance. "It would have been audacious just a few years ago to even hope that would happen."

Germany agreed in 1990 to allow an unlimited number of Jews from the former Soviet bloc to immigrate. In the last eight years, the Jewish community in Germany has more than doubled, to 100,000, Mr. Harris said.

"The challenge to Jews in the coming years

will be to sustain and develop community life," he said. "The challenge for Germany will be to come to terms with a living and growing Jewish organism in its midst."

Mr. Harris said the opening of the council office in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz was a step toward improving the relationship between Jews and Germans.

Mr. Harris said the council would seek to bear witness to the past as the last generation of Holocaust survivors grows older.

"We want to help ensure the growing Jewish community," Mr. Harris said. "We note extreme right-wing violence and the rise of a new right that seeks to create a new interpretation of history. Obviously, we reject this."

"Without eyewitnesses, without survivors, there is danger of forgetting," he added. "We believe the AJC has a role to play in the civil society of Germany."

Before the Nazis tried to exterminate the Jewish population in Europe, about 365,000 Jews lived in Germany.

When Germany united in 1990, there were officially about 27,000 Jews living in West Germany and only around 400 in East Germany.

The challenge to Jews in the coming years

TRAVEL UPDATE

Helsinki Transport Strike Ends

HELSINKI (Reuters) — Public transport drivers in Helsinki returned to work Monday after a weeklong strike over what they saw as threats to job security.

The Finnish news agency STT said a mediator's proposal had been accepted late Sunday, heading off a threat of sympathy strikes by airport workers and commuter train engineers.

New Attack on Bangkok Visitor

BANGKOK (AFP) — The image Thailand has sought to project, of a friendly "Land of Smiles," is at risk after the third attack on a woman tourist in two weeks.

One tourist has been murdered and two others injured. The police have vowed to crack down, starting with a request for all Bangkok hotels to supply information on their employees.

Olympic Airways canceled 10 flights Monday and rerouted others amid a work-to-rule action by cabin crews.

Parts of the Nazca Lines in southern Peru, the mysterious symbols and animal figures that Indians etched into the ground from 600 to 300 B.C., have been damaged by mud slides, a historian, Jose Lancha, said.

For a Divided Israel at 50, Not a Very Happy Birthday

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — As Israel prepares to launch its 50th-anniversary celebrations, most of its 5.9 million citizens seem united — for once — on one thing: Practically no one is in a mood to celebrate.

This may seem paradoxical, for Israel's achievements of a half-century are signal. It has the strongest — some would say only — democracy in the Middle East, middle-class comforts unthinkable 20 years ago, one of the world's best-educated citizenries and a booming high-tech sector. Not least, the state's very survival is a tribute to armed forces of nearly mythic efficiency and daring.

Hollywood is preparing to lionize Israel with a \$6 million extravaganza in mid-April, just prior to the official anniversary celebration on April 30. Jews in the United States, Canada and Europe also are gearing up to party.

Yet Israel itself is in a sour mood, divided by profound and deepening rifts in society not noted for its tolerance. At the same time, the four-year-old search for peace between Israelis and Palestinians is near collapse.

The cleavages in Israeli society — between religious Jews and secular ones, between European Jews and Jews with North African or Middle Eastern roots, between immigrants and native-born Israelis, between the country's Jewish and Arab citizens — were a secondary irritant for many years compared with Arab terrorism, the struggle with Palestinians and the threat of invasion from hostile Arab states.

With the perception that those dangers have diminished somewhat, the internal fault lines have ripped open with a vengeance, at times supplanting the struggle between Jews and Palestinians in the news media and the minds of many Israelis. Polls suggest that a majority of Israelis now believe the greatest threat to the state lies in the internal divisions among Jews, not the external threat.

"I had been looking forward to this year since I moved here," said Tania Hershman, a science writer in her late 20s who moved to Israel from England in 1994. "This was to have been the year of the great party, hot now I just feel sad."

Small wonder, then, that the government committee appointed to arrange the birthday bash has turned into a spectacular fiasco. Three successive chairmen have resigned, allegations of corruption and mismanagement are flying, and the bitter personal feuds surrounding the committee resemble a haze fest more than a jubilee. Budgets have been slashed, and many of the grand events envisioned for the coming months have been canceled. Israelis have come to regard the committee as an unfunny oafish joke.

Although the circumstances — and threats — today are drastically different from those at Israel's perilous birth, the current storm clouds recall the remark of David Ben-Gurion, the state's founding prime minister, who said upon leading Israel to statehood in 1948, "I feel no gaiety in me, only deep anxiety."

Take the case of Oman Yekuteli. He has no particular plans to celebrate the anniversary this spring. He will be too busy fighting what he considers a war for the nation's soul.

Or take Avner Shem-Tov. He will not be attending the festivities planned for the anniversary. He would prefer that the government mark the date by cutting taxes.

The two men — both of them native Israelis in early middle-age — have little in common. Each has a vision of how society should work that seems to exclude the other's.

Unusual for this nation of mostly recent immigrants, Mr. Yekuteli and rare Israeli whose European Jewish forebears have been here for six generations. He is also secular to the point of atheism and fed up with what he sees as the encroachment of rigorously Orthodox Judaism in Israeli life.

Having spent his 20 and early 30s working with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Mr. Yekuteli, now a Jerusalem city councilman in his early 40s, has lately

switched causes. Last year, he founded a movement called Free Israel to resist the inroads that rigorously Orthodox Jews, who now control a fifth of the seats in the Knesset or Parliament, are making among Israel's large community of secular Jews.

It is a battle that touches aspects of daily life, such as whether some shops and malls may open on the Sabbath. It also raises questions of national identity, such as who is considered a Jew in Israel and whether any strand of Judaism but the rigorously Orthodox may perform conversions in the country. The latter question in particular has sparked nasty and highly personal attacks between ultra-Orthodox Jews and those who practice less restrictive forms of worship.

"When Israel had its 20th birthday when I was a kid," Mr. Yekuteli said, "it had all the best reasons in the world to celebrate."

"Now, when we're reaching 50," he added, "Israel is in so many bad turning points that the reason for its liberation is actually fading. I'd say now we've taken a huge step backward, becoming more and more medieval in our ways, anticultural, racist, chauvinist."

Mr. Yekuteli's vision of a live-and-let-live Israel is radically at odds with the view of

With the perception that external dangers have diminished, internal fault lines have ripped open.

Israeli Jews such as Mr. Shem-Tov, a member of Shas, the powerful rigorously Orthodox party that is a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government.

Mr. Shem-Tov, whose family came to Israel from Central Asia, joined Shas as a party worker at its founding a decade ago. Like many Israeli Jews of non-European roots, he had felt like an outsider, barred from the country's corridors of power.

In Shas, he found a party for have-nots that has used the language of racial achievement to challenge the status quo and advance its agenda. Last week, Shas lashed out at Israel's High Court of Justice, accusing it of elitism and racism against Jews of non-European origin.

Mr. Shem-Tov also was attracted by Shas's party's vision of what Israel would become — strictly observant of the Torah and Jewish law governing the preparation of food, the Sabbath, relations between men and women, and the procedures on conversion to Judaism.

To Mr. Shem-Tov, many of Israel's Jews are hardly Jews at all, particularly residents of Tel Aviv and the nearly 1 million recent immigrants from the former Soviet states, most of whom are largely ignorant of Judaism. "With God's help, I hope my daughter will not marry one," he said. "I hope they'll open their eyes and realize they've arrived in the land of Israel, not in Uganda."

For many Israelis, the division between religious and secular Jews has come with the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was gunned down by a rigorously Orthodox Jew. In polite company, most Israelis condemn the killing, yet even that is not universal. Some right-wing Orthodox Jews suggested that Mr. Rabin had brought misfortune upon himself by seeking to accommodate the Palestinians and endangering the nation's security.

There are signs that the dispute is tinged with violence. Rock-throwing and other clashes between Orthodox and secular Jews are common. Given the tensions, Mr. Shem-Tov says it would be ludicrous to mark Israel's 50th anniversary with a grand celebration. He would prefer a 20 percent municipal tax cut in Jerusalem.

"To celebrate is fine and good; we can raise our glasses and say, 'To life!'" he said. "But the problems will remain. It will be like a couple who gets married, exchanges toasts, eats and a half-hour later goes home and starts fighting."

WEATHER

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather.



Europe

Today		Wednesday		Thursday	
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Almaty	42°	34°	29°	22°	15°
Ashgabat	42°	34°	29°	22°	15°
Beijing	32°	22°	27°	17°	12°
Bombay	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Caracas	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Cheng Mai	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Colombia	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Ho Chi Minh	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Hong Kong	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Istanbul	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Jakarta	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Khartoum	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Kiev	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Kuala Lumpur	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Manila	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Moscow	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Nairobi	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Paris	32°	22°	31°	22°	17°
Rome	32°	22°	31		

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For Betty Currie, Being President's Secretary Carries a Heavy Price

By Rachel L. Swarns
New York Times Service



The Associated Press
Betty Currie, an unflappable aide.

WASHINGTON — To visitors, she is the first face of the Oval Office, the gracious secretary who welcomes Nelson Mandela and hobnobs with wealthy fund-raisers, the smooth, cool voice on the president's telephone line.

But for five years now, Betty Currie has also been Bill Clinton's office mother, the woman who cuddles Socks the cat and sweetens the White House with her infectious laugh and her bottomless dish of butterscotch.

And while Mrs. Currie clearly relishes her access to a glittering political world, friends say she took the job primarily out of loyalty to the president, who shares her Democratic ideals and stood by her side last year as she wept over the coffins of her sister and brother, who died within six months of each other.

"She believes in him," said Judy Green, a vice president at the People for the American Way Foundation and a friend of Mrs. Currie's for 20 years. "She has tremendous admiration and respect for him."

But last week, as Mrs. Currie stepped out on her front porch to face flashing cameras and shouting reporters, she found herself at the center of the gravest scandal of Mr. Clinton's presidency.

The daughter of an Illinois housekeeper, who rose to become the White

and in the process, the quiet, church-going woman, who once described Mr. Clinton as "one of the nicest, most wonderful people" she had ever worked for, has found herself caught between her devotion to the president and her obligation to cooperate with the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

But even while talking with prosecutors, Mrs. Currie has been a valiant defender of the president, who said a lawyer who knows the content of her statements.

And when Mrs. Currie arrived at work last week after testifying before a grand jury, struggling through the packs of journalists who had been laying in wait outside the White House gates since 1 A.M., her colleagues hugged her over and over again.

To them, Mrs. Currie is, perhaps, the most sympathetic of the many government employees drawn into the political maelstrom surrounding Mr. Starr's investigation. Unaccustomed to the spotlight, she has flourished in behind-the-scenes roles, serving as the office manager for Geraldine Ferraro's vice presidential campaign and Michael Dukakis' presidential campaign before joining Mr. Clinton's campaign staff in 1992.

Of course, as one of the president's two personal secretaries, she did sometimes mingle in glamorous circles. She played a bit role in "The War Room," a

documentary movie on the 1992 presidential campaign. And Barbra Streisand, a Clinton supporter, personally invited her to the New York premiere of her movie, "The Mirror Has Two Faces," in November 1996, a long-time friend said.

That night, Mrs. Currie accompanied Walter Kaye, the wealthy fund-raiser who referred Ms. Lewinsky to the White House, in a luminous to Ms. Streisand's party at Tavern on the Green in Manhattan.

But friends and colleagues said Mrs. Currie spends most of her time far from public scrutiny, kidding with the president in his office, offering M&Ms to children who come to hear the president's weekly radio address or relaxing at home in Arlington, Virginia, with her husband, Robert, a retired government official and amateur pilot.

An intensely private woman who was struggling to cope with the deaths of her two siblings and with the care of her sickly mother, Mrs. Currie seemed stunned as she emerged from testifying before the grand jury last week into the crush of waiting cameras. And the look in her frightened eyes that flashed across the evening news left her friends and colleagues anguished.

"I cannot tell you how much it broke my heart to see her go into that grand jury amidst that circus outside," said Lisa Caputo, the former press secretary to

Hillary Rodham Clinton. "Betty Currie is a gem," she added, "a true gem. To see this, it's just not right."

It is a sentiment that echoes through the halls of the White House, in the Community United Methodist Church in Arlington, where she prays on Sunday, and on her tree-lined street, where she has spent the past week secluded behind the shuttered, white Venetian blinds of her two-story home in Arlington.

"We love her," said Mrs. Philip Peters, a neighbor for 13 years who broke into tears when asked to describe Mrs. Currie. "Can't you leave her alone? Can't everyone just leave her alone?"

Born in Waukegan, Illinois, Mrs. Currie was popular and active in her local high school, participating in Spanish club, the concert choir and cheerleaders.

And when she graduated in 1957, she went to work as a typist at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, beginning a career in government that would carry her from the Post Office, to the Agency for International Development, to the Peace Corps Action/Agency, and ultimately to try another time.

And she soon became friend, counselor and confessor to her colleagues, warming the room with her quiet smile, and the brown eyes that peered over her dark-rimmed glasses into the hearts of her friends.

Her friends say Mrs. Currie feels drained these days. She feels sure she will survive Mr. Starr's investigation, just as she has survived the other traumas of the past year.

"This is a strong woman and no one should think any different," said her friend, Ms. Green. "She believes in the president and she's back at work. She's going to stay."

Career Help for Friends: A Clinton Pattern?

By William C. Rempel
and David Willman
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — As investigators worked around the clock last month combing through tape-recordings of the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, they heard plenty of salacious talk about her supposed intimacy with the president of the United States.

But what riveted career prosecutors, and prompted Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, to seek an expansion of his jurisdiction, was hearing that Vernon Jordan Jr., a presidential friend and adviser, had arranged for Ms. Lewinsky to be offered a job.

To Mr. Starr's investigators, that echoed a pattern: More than once, from the governor's mansion in Little Rock, Arkansas, to the White House, when Bill Clinton's political life has been in jeopardy, he and his most trusted aides have been accused of offering to line up jobs and financial security for those who might hold sensitive information about him.

The intended beneficiaries have included a reputed former mistress, former bodyguards and an ex-law partner of Hillary Rodham Clinton. In nearly every instance, it appears that Mr. Clinton's allies have not shied from using government resources to help accomplish their aims.

Away From Politics

* Authorities in Northern California ordered 500 families from their homes around Clear Lake, north of San Francisco, which was creeping higher after major storms struck the area. At least nine deaths have been blamed on the weekend series of witness tampering.

* A Miami Air International airplane had just landed when one of its wheels went off the pavement and got stuck in the mud. Airport workers had to evacuate 117 passengers. (AP)

* Four of every 10 HIV-infected people surveyed at two New England hospitals had failed to tell sex partners about their condition, and nearly two-thirds did not always use a condom, researchers said. The survey subjects were mostly poor, and many used illegal drugs and lacked high school educations, but the researchers said in Archives of Internal Medicine that they believed withholding such information was widespread. (AP)

Texas-Sized Fight Over a Lawyers' Bill

Governor Seeks to Block \$2.3 Billion in Legal Fees for Tobacco Lawsuit

By Sam Howe Verhovek
New York Times Service

HOUSTON — At first blush, it sounds like a standard contingency-fee agreement — even a generous one from the client's point of view, by trial lawyers' standards.

The lawyers who took the case put up the initial costs, agreed not to take a penny if the client did not collect and asked for only 15 percent if there was a settlement.

But when the client is the state of Texas, and the state's settlement with the tobacco industry is \$13.3 billion, the result is not a cheerful payment of the lawyers' bill, which comes to \$2.3 billion (plus expenses, some lawyers argue).

Calling the proposed fees "outrageous," Governor George Bush has gone to federal court to block the payment to the roughly 150 lawyers who helped Texas in the tobacco lawsuit.

But the state's attorney general, Dan Morales, the chief architect of the settlement, arguing that Mr. Bush's move could undermine the accord, accused him of having "chosen to wrap himself in a tobacco leaf" and said the governor was pandering for campaign contributions from the tobacco industry in a future run for the White House.

The fight in Texas mirrors one in Florida, where some lawyers are trying to collect as much as 25 percent of that state's \$11.3 billion settlement with the tobacco industry for health-related dam-

age caused by smoking. That battle already has the added twist of lawyers fighting among themselves over the share of any proceeds. But, for now, a state judge has blocked some of the lawyers' attempts to collect fees by placing liens on the tobacco companies' payments to the state.

The Florida judge, Harold Cohen of Circuit Court in West Palm Beach, ruled late last year that the lawyers may well be entitled to hundreds of millions of dollars for their work. However, in a ruling that basically tore up the stipulated 25 percent, Judge Cohen wrote that the amount of fees sought, \$2.87 billion, "simply shocks the conscience of the court" and "is per se unreasonable."

The proposed fees in Texas and Florida appear to be the two largest payments to lawyers in the history of American litigation.

But, as garraman as the fight over them may seem now, it may well be dwarfed by the one that will occur if Congress approves the proposed \$368.5 billion national settlement with the tobacco industry, which in most respects would supersede the Texas and Florida agreements as well as those expected in the more than three dozen other states that have legal action pending against the tobacco companies.

Even without such a national deal in hand, several members of Congress have proposed legislation that would limit the amounts paid to the hundreds of private lawyers who helped negotiate that agreement, which was announced last

spring but has yet to be acted on. One bill proposed in the House of Representatives would set the fees to be awarded at no more than \$150 an hour plus expenses; a Senate bill would put the amount at \$250 an hour.

In Texas, the legal tussle has enough

subtext to fill an entire semester's course in the basic politics of America's second most populous state, after California.

As a group, trial lawyers here have

long been major contributors to the Democratic Party and have fought bitterly with Mr. Bush, a Republican, over legislation that would limit damage awards in civil trials and limit what Mr. Bush calls "frivolous lawsuits."

The governor is running for re-election this autumn, and he would appear to have little to lose politically by arguing to Texans that a bunch of trial lawyers do not deserve \$2.3 billion in fees.

In his filing to Judge David Folsom of Federal District Court in Texarkana, Mr. Bush said he did not want to reduce the overall size of the settlement; he simply wanted more of the money to go to health-care programs and less to lawyers.

Nonetheless, Mr. Bush's strategy is not without risk. Mr. Morales said the action threatened to undermine the settlement, which has a provision stating that it can be terminated if the courts or lawmakers change it in any "material respect."

The attorney general said Mr. Bush was doing the bidding of the tobacco companies by filing the equivalent of a legal bombshell that could destroy the agreement.

Faster Naturalization

WASHINGTON — The administration is preparing to revamp the naturalization process, using computers to reduce the chances of granting U.S. citizenship to criminals and other ineligible applicants.

The modernization plan builds on a long-overdue automation drive the Immigration and Naturalization Service has initiated, according to agency officials familiar with the proposal.

It would require electronic fingerprint checks at several points in the naturalization process, tighten control over key data to prevent fraud, use bar codes and the Internet to speed up the system and eventually allow an applicant to be sworn in as a U.S. citizen immediately after an interview.

The aim is to close loopholes in the system while improving "customer service" and reducing waiting times to six months or less, officials said. At present, about 1.7 million immigrants are in line to become U.S. citizens, and waiting times exceed two years in some cities. (WP)

Republicans vs. Census

WASHINGTON — Republicans in Congress are preparing to renew their fight to prevent the Census Bureau from using a new method to count the United States' population in 2000.

House Republicans, once content with threats to withhold money from the Census Bureau or to challenge the constitutionality

of the new method, are now drawing up plans to oversee the census more tightly than any Congress in memory.

"We must have a huge say in the planning, preparation and implementation of the 2000 census," said Representative Daniel Miller, Republican of Florida, who heads a House subcommittee that oversees the Census Bureau.

The Republicans are fighting the proposed statistical sampling methodology for the 2000 census. Supporters of the method say they suspect that Republican opposition stems from a fear that counting more minorities, who tend to vote Democratic, would result in a redrawing of congressional district lines that would benefit Democrats.

Last week, House leaders granted Mr. Miller's subcommittee a \$1.1 million budget to oversee preparations for the next census.

The money, which comes from a special account established by House Republican leaders for investigations, is about 10 times more than what was allocated to the House subcommittee that oversees preparations for the 1990 census. House leaders have yet to say precisely how they will supervise the census. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

Stanley Greenberg, Democratic pollster, on President Bill Clinton's climb in opinion polls despite the Lewinsky case: "That he would gain popularity is not what many smart observers thought would happen. We are all running to catch up to reality." (WP)

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the Wing

of South Korea

The party's long-standing pro-independence stance has made it unable to lead the leadership in Beijing, which has rights on reunifying Taiwan and mainland following the success of Hong Kong to Chinese control this year. China considers Taiwan a separate province.

Mr. Chen lately has been a proponent of modifying his party's independence line to a more pragmatic one. While still proclaiming Taiwan is not a part of the People's Republic of China, he also says that once his independence would come after a nationwide referendum issue — and the referendum may be held right away.

ELY

The centenary of its federation. The convention also left open the option of allowing Australia to become a republic in time for the opening of the Summer Olympics in Sydney in late September 2000.

It was decided that the head of state in a republic would be called president.

The resolution on the timing of the republic calls for a referendum by 2001. The constitutional convention, discussing the issue of Australia as a republic. Half of the 152 delegates were elected by Australians in a two-stage ballot, and the other half were appointed by Prime Minister John Howard's government.

4 North Koreans Defect to Seoul

SEOUL — Four North Koreans living in a former Soviet republic defected to South Korea and among them, Seo Min-han, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The ministry declined to identify the four, instead naming the group to which they defected. The four, who had been working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the former Soviet republics of Belarus and Russia, defected to South Korea last week.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian gained popularity with his stand against the repression of Armenians living in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is in-

False Steps Brought Armenian Leader's Fall

Change Shows Military Is Firmly in Charge

By Steve LeVine
New York Times Service

— YEREVAN, Armenia — Even before Levon Ter-Petrosian resigned as president last week, Armenia's top military officials had become the nation's main political power brokers, local officials and Western diplomats say.

Sixteen months ago they intervened to seal Mr. Ter-Petrosian's re-election, when their troops crushed protests that jeopardized his 1996 victory in a vote tainted by fraud. But some of those same officials pressed Mr. Ter-Petrosian to step down after what diplomats and others characterized as his political mistakes caused them to lose confidence in him.

"The well-known power bodies demanded my resignation," Mr. Ter-Petrosian said in a short statement announcing his resignation.

Now, Western diplomats say, the security forces have shifted their support to Prime Minister Robert Kocharyan, 43, who has become acting president.

While he has said that he is unlikely to compete in new presidential elections on March 16, some local political analysts said he was nonetheless a favorite and predicted that military officials would persuade him to run.

Ban on Opposition Party Ends

The Justice Ministry removed a ban on Armenia's main opposition party Monday, clearing the way for it to take part in the presidential election, Reuters reported. The nationalist Dashnak party was banned in 1994 by Mr. Ter-Petrosian, who accused it of links with drug trafficking and terrorism. It denied the charges.

Changes Yield Outlines of a New Political Architecture

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

changes would be made without the approval of the province's Protestant majority, most of whom want to remain British.

The formal peace talks began 20 months ago in an effort to end sectarian violence that has killed more than 3,200 people since 1969.

Until recent weeks the talks had founded in political arguing and posturing. Then, to the relief of the British and Irish governments, which are sponsoring the talks, the leaders of the Protestant and Roman Catholic minority.

The structure under discussion would give the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republic increased influence in the affairs of the British province. But it would also guarantee that no

another in public, inside the negotiating room they began for the first time to explore particulars of three new political institutions:

- A regional legislature, probably with 90 members. The British government has ruled the province directly since 1972, when sectarian violence made it impossible for the Protestant-controlled regional Assembly to govern.

- A ministerial council with members from Northern Ireland, Britain and the Irish Republic to deal with trans-border issues like tourism and agriculture.

- An intergovernmental body of Irish Repub-

lic and British officials to replace the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1985, which gave Dublin a consulting role in northern affairs for the first time.

The politicians have begun working on an agreement on the new structure, which would be put to a referendum in the North and the Irish Republic.

"We are discussing substantive issues," said Bronagh Hinds, who is taking part in the talks as a member of the Women's Coalition, a mix of Protestants and Catholics. "People are trying to find a comfortable way into those issues. People are beginning to accommodate others' agendas."

George Mitchell, the former U.S. senator who has been chairman of the talks since they began in June 1996, said in an interview. "The real story is that slowly but steadily we've been inching forward toward what I believe will be an historic resolution of the conflict in Northern Ireland."

The Irish prime minister, Bertie Ahern, said that cooperation between his government and the British was now "excellent," a sign that the peace issues that have often divided London and Dublin had been resolved in discussions with Mo Mowlam, the British Northern Ireland secretary. She stood by his side in Dublin, smiling in approval.

EUROPE

BRIEFLY

Separatists Claim Corsican Slaying

AJACCIO, Corsica — Corsican separatists claimed responsibility Monday for the death of the top official on the French island, calling the murder "perfectly thought out and highly political."

An unsigned communiqué, which the police considered genuine because it included the murder weapon's serial number, said the prefect Claude Erignac was gunned down Friday because his "colonial policy" had harmed Corsican agriculture and forestry.

(Reuters)



Magistrates and lawyers marching in Ajaccio on Monday in memory of their slain prefect, Claude Erignac. (Reuters/Leslie Agence France Presse)

Runoff for Cyprus

NICOSIA — A runoff has been set in Cyprus's presidential election after no candidate won a majority.

The runoff, between former Foreign Minister George Iacovou and President Glavkos Clerides, was scheduled for next Sunday. Mr. Iacovou won 40.6 percent of the vote, edging Mr. Clerides, who got 40.1 percent.

The leader of the Socialist Party, Vassos Lyssarides, emerged as the likely power-broker with 10.6 percent of the vote. He has avoided indicating whom he will support in the second round.

(Reuters)

Poles Fight Visa Rule

WARSAW — Polish traders blocked a border crossing into Belarus on Monday to protest new visa rules that have kept their customers away.

About 200 traders from the eastern city of Bialystok parked their cars at the crossing in Kuznica Bialostocka,

stopping all traffic into Belarus.

The visa rules tightened Dec. 27 because of concern from Western Europe that Poland was becoming a way station for illegal immigrants from the East.

Under the new rules, visitors from Belarus and Russia are required to present a document showing that food and lodging for the entire stay have been paid for, or an invitation from

someone in Poland. However, most visitors cannot afford accommodations, and that has led to a decrease in trade.

(AP)

5 Albanians Drown

BRINDISI, Italy — Five Albanian refugees were drowned and at least two more were missing Monday after their

boat sank in rough seas off southern Italy, officials said.

Coast Guardsmen said they had received a distress signal in the middle of the night and had rescued 14 people clinging to debris from a vessel that had sunk near Brindisi.

The boat had left the Albanian port of Vlore on Sunday when weather appeared calm enough to make the five-hour trip across the Adriatic. (Reuters)

Northern Ireland Talks Yield Outlines of a New Political Architecture

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

BELFAST — For the first time since the current peace effort began five years ago, the shape of a new political structure for Northern Ireland has begun to emerge clearly in formal talks between leaders of the Protestant majority and the Roman Catholic minority.

The structure under discussion would give the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republic increased influence in the affairs of the British province. But it would also guarantee that no

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune
INTERNATIONAL**Keep Helping Asia**

Asia's currencies have stabilized, and stock markets are bouncing back. The U.S. economy continues to roll, with 358,000 jobs created last month as wages rise, unemployment remains low and the Dow Jones average forges ahead. Maybe, a member of Congress might think, the Asian financial storm has blown past. Maybe we don't have to give the IMF all those billions the Clinton administration is pressing for.

If only it were so. Unfortunately, on many levels, it is too soon to relax. For millions of workers and their families in Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea and elsewhere, trouble is just beginning. Even if their nations' currencies and stock markets have bottomed out, the consequences of rising unemployment, slowed economic growth and declining standards of living have yet to unfold. To some extent, such consequences are unavoidable. But Americans have more than a humanitarian interest in mitigating Asia's pain.

So far, the economic impact on the United States has been, if anything, beneficial, as Asia's crisis dampens inflationary pressure in America. But in the coming months the impact is likely to be less positive, as competitive pressures threaten some American jobs. And if the economic crisis worsens and provokes ethnic riots in Indonesia and social instability elsewhere, the national-security and economic impact on the United States could be adverse in the extreme.

Moreover, the financial situation remains precarious. This is especially so in Indonesia, where the dictatorial President Suharto refuses to recognize the need for more democracy or to prepare the ground for a political transition. Democratic South Korea is in far better shape, thanks to the earnestness and skill with which President-elect Kim Dae Jung has devoted himself to far-reaching economic reform. But even South Korea remains vulnerable

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Filling Tech Jobs

The sudden awareness of a rapidly expanding field for high-paid, high-skilled employment — the computer sector — has occasioned some giddiness on the policy front. The long-sleepy programs at Labor and Commerce devoted to "school-to-work" transitions and the always struggling "retraining" enterprises are humbling with activity and White-House-level attention. Vice President Al Gore last month announced a package of grants pushing industry and employers to expand training programs to encourage people to retool for careers as computer engineers, technicians or systems analysts. The occasional mad dreamer is even reported setting up computer sites to impart high-tech literacy to welfare mothers and the homeless — and more power to them.

Predictions are that the high-tech sector will at least double its current crop of jobs over the next decade — that's a million more jobs — and that those jobs will depend on skills that, at least for now, are rare enough to create a seller's market for those who have had the foresight to acquire them.

You could hardly imagine a situation that tests more directly the fa-

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Troubled Armenia

The resignation this month of Armenia's president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, was a disturbing development for peace and ethnic harmony in the Caucasus. Largely Christian Armenia is at war with its larger and richer Muslim neighbor, Azerbaijan, over Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in Azerbaijan populated by Armenians, who are seeking independence. In September, Mr. Ter-Petrosian, under pressure from the United States, France and Russia, announced his support for a peace plan that contained necessary compromises. These enraged hard-liners in his government and parliamentary coalition, who forced him to resign.

He was already unpopular, largely due to suspicions that he won the 1996 election through fraud. But his peace plan, seen by many Armenians as a sellout, is the only realistic solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh war, which began in 1988 after the enclave demanded Armenian rule and has killed 25,000 people, mostly civilians. It has sabotaged Armenia's economy and threatens the stability of the oil- and gas-rich Caspian Sea region. Mr. Ter-

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Herald Tribune

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Editor for Asia: Michael Pickering, 5 Connaught Rd, Singapore 119000 Tel: (65) 472-7745, Fax: (65) 322-1168, Fax: (65) 322-1169
Gen. Mgr Germany: T. Schäfer, Friedrichstr. 15, 60323 Frankfurt, Tel: +49 69 971250-30, Fax: +49 69 971250-30
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A Crisis of Political Transition Hobbles Indonesia

By Hilton L. Root

MANILA — The depth of Indonesia's problems continues to surprise international monetary officials, and worry investors and markets.

The currency has not rebounded despite a recent agreement with the IMF that cuts government spending, tightens monetary policy, restructures the banking sector and reduces opportunities for nepotism.

The agreement was expected to restore confidence and signal the commitment of President Suharto to reform. But the medicine is not working because there is a missing ingredient.

The IMF's agreement was established by decree with an autocratic ruler whose mandate derives from an electoral college that he largely appoints. It was the product of behind-the-scenes negotiations; the parties whose cooperation is needed did not participate.

The details are so confidential that even the IMF's counterpart multilateral organizations are left in the dark. How can this process inspire confidence?

The closed Indonesian accord stands in sharp contrast to the agreements reached in South Korea, where support was enlisted through electoral competition, and the possible costs of the reforms were publicly debated.

The Indonesian reforms are contestable on the grounds that they were

imposed from the outside without demonstrated domestic consensus or at least broad public support.

Aware that the reform program lacks social and political backing, investors hesitate. In an unstable political environment, what was enacted by administrative fiat can easily be overturned.

Austerity measures are likely to intensify perceived income inequality. Many Indonesians question why they should shoulder debts incurred to enrich a handful of regime cronies.

As the effects of crisis spread, groups that stand to lose most are tempted to take their dissatisfaction to the streets, increasing the probability that force will be used.

The reform package may also be denounced by the ruling clique as the externally imposed source of Indonesia's hardships, and by opposition groups as a sign of international colonization with the regime.

Concerns about the president's level of commitment to the IMF-mandated reforms have surfaced. In previous times of trouble, Mr. Suharto gained international confidence by supporting the policies of a team of technocrats in his government despite often fierce op-

position. He no longer has a team that inspires such confidence, and his response in applying the painful reforms, including those affecting the extensive business interests of his family and friends, has wavered.

His actions reveal that his understanding of the crisis is radically different from that of the international

rivals means that investors cannot assess the range of alternatives to Mr. Suharto's rule. While they are shunning an Indonesia held together by military force, they are returning to Thailand and South Korea, where elected governments are clearly committed to reform.

The IMF succeeded in getting its wish list of reforms formally accepted by Indonesia. But the package has failed to restore confidence because what was diagnosed as an economic crisis has mutated into a crisis of political transition. This creates risks that the market cannot evaluate.

Indonesia no longer has a functioning political system because it does not have a functioning political system.

tured. Mr. Suharto recently put himself in charge of an Economic Resilience Council formed to monitor compliance with the IMF reforms because existing institutions could not be trusted.

This highlights a deeper problem: Nothing happens in Indonesia unless the president takes a direct interest.

Persistent suppression of political rivals means that investors cannot assess the range of alternatives to Mr. Suharto's rule. While they are shunning an Indonesia held together by military force, they are returning to Thailand and South Korea, where elected governments are clearly committed to reform.

The IMF succeeded in getting its wish list of reforms formally accepted by Indonesia. But the package has failed to restore confidence because what was diagnosed as an economic crisis has mutated into a crisis of political transition. This creates risks that the market cannot evaluate.

The writer, a senior research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and author of "Small Countries, Big Lessons: Governance and the Rise of East Asia," contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Expect Most of Diverse East Asia to Come Storming Back

By Gregory Clark

TOKYO — As Asia's col-

lapsed currencies and

stock markets continue to re-

cover, what happens to recent

Western gloating over deflated

"Asian values"?

Three problems caused the

recent collapses, and none of

them had anything to do with

"Asian values."

One was currency overvalu-

ation due to the inflow of for-

eign funds chasing high growth

and profits. Then there was

trade imbalance, as the new rich splurged on imported goods.

On top of all that was declining

competitiveness as labor costs

rose vis-à-vis China.

Currency and stock specula-

tors simply provided the

coup de grâce.

These problems are serious,

but few in the anti-Asian-values

school seem to realize that

they are cured virtually auto-

matically by those currency

and stock market collapses.

The excessive inflow of for-

eign funds is cut, the new rich be-

come the new poor, and ability

to compete with China is

restored, since Beijing, unlike

Taiwan, bravely refused to de-

value its currency.

Provided inflation is kept

under control, heavy currency

devaluation means that it is

only a matter of time before

most of those collapsed Asian

economies come storming

back as even more formidable

competitors than before.

The speculators realize this,

and many have made small for-

tunes by buying back into the

currencies and stock markets

that they helped to topple.

The West needs to get a bet-

ter handle on its Asian-values

and clash-of-civilizations pho-

nix. In the first place, there is

no such thing as common

"Asian values."

In non-Western societies, there is more emphasis on per-

sonal relations and less legalism

than in the West. And the Sin-

ic culture societies of Singap-

ore, Taiwan, South Korea and

China tend strongly to endorse

the role of state and family.

But in semi-feudalistic Ja-

pan it is the immediate group

that is all-important. Japan is

much closer to the post-feudal

North European model than to

any other non-Western nation.

In the second place, the

speculators will come later.

Why have most of the Asian

nations done better than most

other non-Western nations?

Because a smart entrepreneurial

class of largely Chinese but

also some Indian origin was

able and willing to invest to

take advantage of cheap labor.

(Japan and South Korea sup-

plied their own entrepreneurs.)

Once development started,

it snowballed, since develop-

ment today is not the slow ac-

cretion of capital and technol-

ogy prescribed by outdated

Western textbooks. It is a mat-

ter of improved infrastructure

combined with cheap labor. The more the investment, the

better the infrastructure; the

better the infrastructure, the

more the investment.

The snowball can easily get

out of control. But it can be put

back on track again simply by

devaluing the currency. If gov-

ernments wo't do that, the

speculators will.

The exception is Japan, a

19th century high-labor-cost

Indonesia

Mr. Suharto recently purged his charge of an Economic Reforms Council formed to monitor compliance with the IMF's reforms because it was not being carried out.

This highlights a deeper problem: nothing happens in Indonesia unless the president takes a direct interest.

Permitting suppression of political means that the nation cannot afford the range of alternatives to Al Gore's rule. While they are shunning power, they are returning to Thailand and South Korea, where elected governments are clearly committed to reform.

The IMF succeeded in getting most of Indonesia's formally accepted to do its bidding. But the package has failed to restore confidence because what was thought to be an economic crisis has instead turned into a political crisis.

Indonesia no longer has a functioning financial system, because it doesn't have a functioning political system.

The writer is a former Indonesian minister and author of "The Lessons of Reformism," and "The Future of Indonesia."

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Washington Gives a Beating To 'Everybody's Best Aunt'

By Maureen Dowd

WASHINGTON — I've had some lousy days at work. But I can't imagine how hard it was for Betty Currie to sit at her desk outside the Oval Office on Friday and say good morning to the boss.

The president's secretary is a dignified, self-possessed 58-year-old, the very model of a discreet, loyal civil servant. Unlike the rest of Washington, she doesn't live to dish and she doesn't take pleasure from the ruin of others and she doesn't boast about her proximity to power.

"She's like everybody's best aunt," recalls George Stephanopoulos.

In the War Room and the West Wing, she was an island of calm in the chaos. Until the chaos engulfed her, until the White House was stricken by the fear that Betty Currie would become John Dean. Then she became the most poignant casualty of Bill Clinton's Washington.

She told the truth. In a town so befogged in circumlocutions and deceptions and evasions and memory lapses and stone walls and smoke screens and conspiracy theories and diversionary tactics, Mrs. Currie's straightforwardness was thrilling.

It can't have been fun. She admires the president and probably wanted to help, but not if it meant lying under oath. In that crush of reporters outside the courthouse, Mrs. Currie was an unforgettable picture of a good woman mortified.

According to The Times, she told investigators that the president had been alone with Ms. Lewinsky, contrary to his assertions. She said she had retrieved the president's gifts to the young lady — brooch, hat pin and that famous dress. She said that he called her into the office on a Sunday, the day after he testified in the Paula Jones case, to go over the questions he had just been asked about his relationship with the frisky intern.

Some skeptics might wonder why the president, with his famous memory for details, would need to go over questions he had answered the day before. Of course, in Clintonland, it's a blurry little line between refreshing and coaching.

Mrs. Currie is an anomaly in the sex scandal, a modest, moral, religious woman who is not partisan and who is not out for herself.

Pinioned between a pres-

ident and a prosecutor who will each do whatever it takes, she has been forced to walk a painful line between truth and loyalty.

For the president and his consigliere, Vernon Jordan, the best aunt could have been the perfect beard. She could have played the unimpeachable (get it?) den mother nurturing young Monica Lewinsky. That could have explained the former intern's incessant visits to the Oval Office.

But here's the beauty part: The best aunt refused to go with the cover story. She did something shocking in Bill Clinton's Washington.

Clinton's carelessness and concupiscence.

So finally, in all this muck, there is someone to admire.

The best aunt stands out in this lousy cast of high low life and low low life — a woman who secretly tapes her girlfriend's misery; a special prosecutor who sometimes resembles a stalker; a ditzy, predatory White House intern who might have lied under oath for a job at Revlon; a reactionary book agent with an addiction to diet; a first lady whose ambition extenuates her husband's infidelities, and, of course, the Big Me, a president who discards principle and people with frightening ease.

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INTERNATIONAL

For British Press, 'Diana' Is Still an Untold Story (and a Big Seller, Too)

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

LONDON — With Diana, Princess of Wales, gone, a new press code in place and the comparatively straight-laced officials of Prime Minister Tony Blair's new Labor government offering scant opportunities for keyhole discoveries, the British press has had to extend even its storied reach to turn up front-page notoriety.

Newspapers have sought to exploit the only lapse thus far in Mr. Blair's ranks — Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's leaving his wife to marry his secretary — but it has simply amounted to giving Mr. Blair some practice at damage control of a kind that is quaint, compared with what he witnessed at the White House last week.

To half flagging circulations, magazines and newspapers are recycling news about the late princess and are

casting about for stand-in figures, usually blond ones, for the day, evidently still distant, when every Diana tale has been told.

Recent weeks have seen "So, Did Diana Really Love Charles Until the Day She Died?" and "Queen Fights to Stop New Diana Secrets" in *The Daily Mail*, "The Diana Conspiracies" and "Di Ecstasy Tablets Being Sold in London" in *The Evening Standard*, "How Safe Are the Secrets of Diana?" in *The Daily Telegraph*, "Diana Song No. 1 for Funerals" in *The Independent*, "Di Butler I Want to Run Fund" in *The Sun*, and "55 Million Calls to Di Gravé Hotline" in *The Mirror*.

The Daily Mail has begun a 200-page series of "the full untold story of her life" accompanied by offers of "Diana Rose Bushes" and "Fabulous Diana Video."

On successive days *The Sun* and *The Mirror* devoted their front pages first to a

supposed feud between the Richard Branson, a British entrepreneur, and the newly knighted Sir Elton John over the recording of the song he performed at her funeral ("Wrangle in the Wind" said *The Sun*), and then to the \$800,000 bill the princess's lawyers submitted for 11 days of work on her memorial fund ("Shameful," said *The Mirror*.)

The article with top play in *The Daily Telegraph* raised an issue that the press itself has apparently not yet contemplated. The headline read, "Royal Family to Look to Their Future Without Diana."

Roy Greenslade, the press critic of *The Guardian*, said, "The way papers are maintaining Diana's status as a sales gimmick, quite apart from its tastelessness, smells of ingenuity at best and desperation at worst."

There is no more competitive news market in the world than Britain, with its 11 national dailies and nine national Sunday papers.

They fight one another with price cuts, beefed-up weekend papers, promotional gimmicks, such as cheap travel tickets and human-interest stories whose detail outweighs their consequence.

Their circulations are enormous and sensitive to stories that keep reader interest, producing fluctuations that can quickly get into hundreds of thousands of readers.

The Audit Bureau of Circulation figures for September, the month that attention to Diana was the highest, showed *The Sun* at 3.9 million, *The Mirror* at 2.4 million, *The Daily Mail* at 2.3 million and *The Daily Telegraph* at 1.1 million. By December, those numbers had declined between 4 percent and 9 percent.

There may have been a brief recovery in the past 10 days with the broad attention the papers have paid to the Washington sex scandal, but the only sustainable subject British editors seem to trust is Diana.

But the need for new talent has obliged the press to begin rehabilitating Diana's former sister-in-law, Sarah Ferguson, the duchess of York, who after a period of being dismissed as too lightweight to be of interest to anyone but Americans was pictured in Tuscany with a favorably portrayed 48-year-old millionaire Italian nobleman.

The press has maintained the discretion it promised in its treatment of the royal family. Over the Christmas holida

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"If there is a complete rupture, the person dies very quickly, according to a thoracic surgeon at a public hospital in Paris," *Time* reported in its Feb. 16 issue.

He said that victims who arrive alive are the ones who have incomplete ruptures of the vein. "The proof is that this patient arrived alive at the hospital, so there must not have been a complete rupture," the surgeon said.

The quotes were taken from a new book, "Death of a Princess: The Investigation," by *Time*'s Paris bureau chief, Tom Sanction, and Middle East correspondent, Scott MacLeod.

It took an hour and 45 minutes for the prince to reach the operating room, book reports.

STAR: Ex-Intern Said to Face Subpoena

Continued from Page 1

week. One of her lawyers, William Ginsburg, has said he plans to file a motion in federal court saying Mr. Starr's representatives reneged on a written offer of immunity and asking the court to enforce the offer. The independent counsel's office says no final offer was made.

If the motion is rejected, Ms. Lewinsky, 24, is expected to exercise her constitutional right not to testify when testimony might tend to incriminate the witness. If she does take shelter behind her Fifth Amendment rights, Mr. Starr could then seek to offer her more limited "use" immunity, shielding her only from any prosecution based directly on her testimony.

Mr. Starr has cast a wide net in his investigation, apparently seeking to

JUDGE: Her Legal Aide

Continued from Page 1

in his wife's business, Mr. Wright makes no apologies. Asked if his presence in her chambers at the closed meeting last spring was inappropriate, Mr. Wright said, "No, because I wouldn't talk about it."

Since being assigned to the Jones case four years ago, Judge Wright, an appointee of President George Bush, has been criticized by Republicans and Democrats alike. She is also under enormous pressure on other fronts. She is overseeing the complicated Little Rock school desegregation effort. She has also been criticized by legal observers for keeping the convicted felon Susan McDougal, one of Mr. Clinton's partners in the original Whitewater land deal, imprisoned for 17 months for Mrs. McDougal's continued refusal to testify about the president.

In the Jones case, she has been faulted by legal observers for failing to enforce her own gag order despite flagrant and now routine leaks.

Within days of the president's deposition Jan. 17, there were reports that he had admitted for the first time to an affair with Gennifer Flowers. Mr. Clinton's reputed testimony about his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky also became public.

"In private she has fussed to the lawyers about the leaks," Mr. Wright said. "The gag order has served one useful purpose: to prevent the lawyers from commenting on the substance on TV."

Despite criticism of the judge from some Democrats, Mr. Wright believes his wife has been fair to the president. "Clinton should be pretty happy with her," he said.

Judge Wright comes from a long line of prominent local lawyers — father, uncle, grandfather — and was raised in a traditional southern Democratic household. Her husband said she started out as a Democrat herself in the 1960s, working on a couple of local campaigns.

She interned for then-Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt, Republican of Arkansas, in the early 1970s, and was there in 1974 when he was unsuccessfully challenged by a political newcomer named Bill Clinton.

In the 1980s, both Wrights were active George Bush supporters; she led Lawyers for Bush in Arkansas during his 1988 campaign.

Susan Wright's first encounter with Mr. Clinton came in the mid-1970s, when she took an admiralty law course taught by him at Arkansas. In what has become a legendary story, Mr. Clinton lost a pile of exams — including Judge Wright's — and offered all his students a B+. Judge Wright refused — desiring to maintain her average — and asked to take a different exam.

But she had to negotiate with Mr. Clinton's fiancée, Hillary Rodham, also teaching at the school, according to Mr. Wright, because Mr. Clinton was already out campaigning. She ultimately got her A — and went on to become the first woman to serve as editor of the school's law review.

■ Wright's Disclaimer

Mr. Wright said Monday that the Washington Post report exaggerated his influence on his wife's decision-making. The Associated Press reported from Little Rock.

"I don't decide my wife's cases; I never have," Mr. Wright said. "I don't know how my wife will rule."

Mr. Wright said that The Washington Post used remarks he had made off the record for the feature story about his wife, and that it took some comments out of context.

The Post's executive editor, Leonard Downie Jr., said the newspaper stood by the article. "I've not heard anything to question the story," Mr. Downie said. "No such complaint has been made to me. I'd be very surprised if the context wasn't correct."

build a case against Mr. Clinton that is not dependent on Ms. Lewinsky, whose credibility has been questioned. She herself allegedly says, on one of the tapes secretly made of her talking about a relationship with Mr. Clinton, that she has frequently lied.

In what appears to be the latest of the leaks that has infuriated the White House, Newsweek magazine has reported that Ashley Raines, an Arkansas native who works in the White House Office of Administration, told the grand jury that she heard Ms. Lewinsky talking about an affair with Mr. Clinton.

The magazine reported that Ms. Lewinsky had played for Ms. Raines tape-recorded telephone messages the president allegedly left on the former intern's answering machine.

The report about Ms. Raines was denounced by a White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart, as being part of "a campaign of misinformation and intimidation" by Mr. Starr.

Another report, that a presidential valet had told the grand jury he had seen Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky alone together, was retracted Monday by The Wall Street Journal. News reports have emerged almost daily citing unnamed people "close to the office of the independent counsel" or "with knowledge of the grand jury investigation."

Mr. Starr has defended the professionalism of his staff, but added that he was concerned about the alleged leaks and would investigate to learn their source. He promised to "take appropriate action" against any offenders.

Some Republicans have suggested that the leaks might have been preemptively released by the White House with timing calculated to lessen their impact.

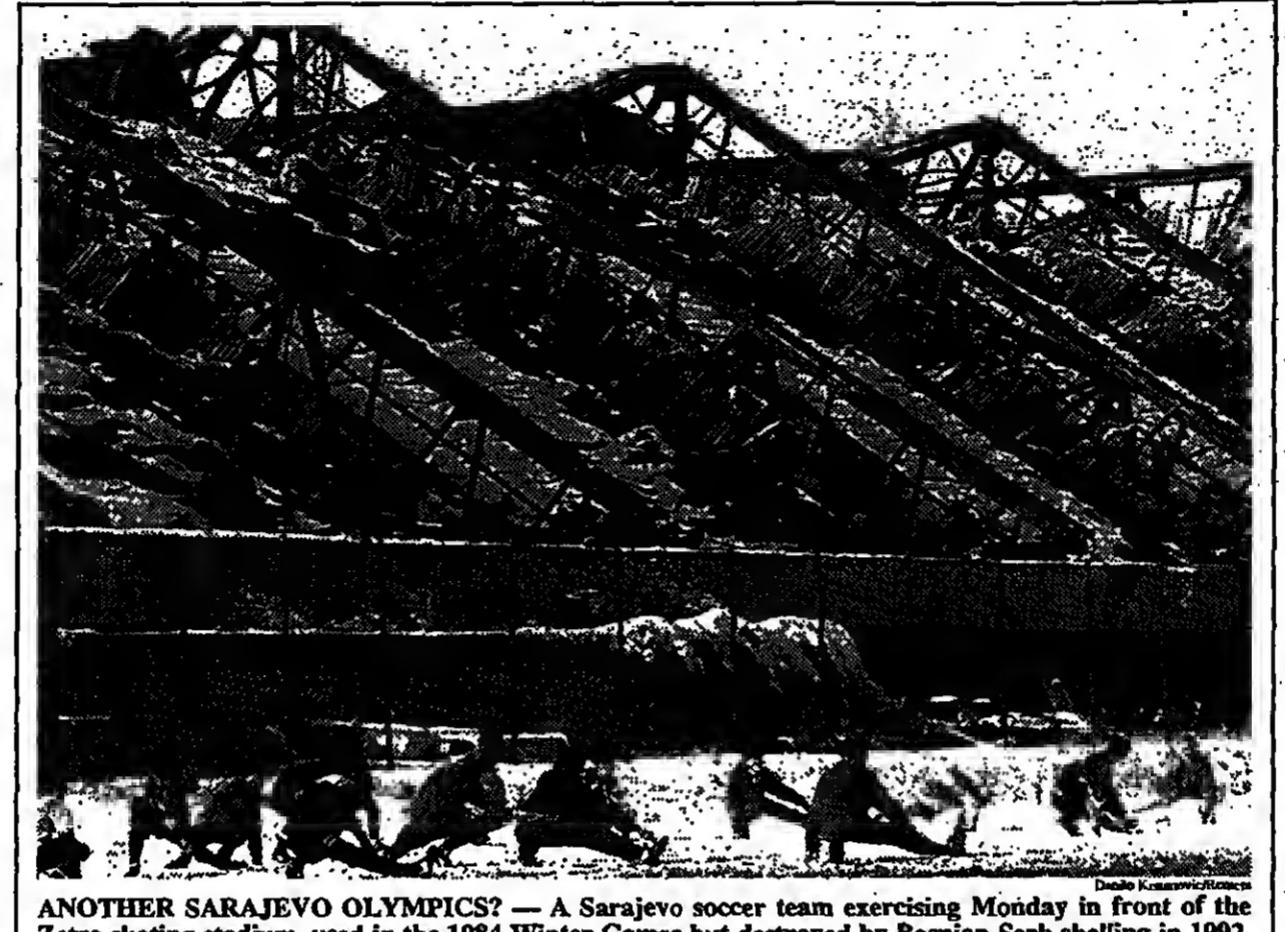
Ms. Lewis, the White House communications director, denied that.

"You will not find any evidence that the White House has been the source of unauthorized release of information," she said. "We have not done that. We are under very clear direction from White House counsel that we will not go down that path."

An aide to Mr. Gingrich confirmed, meanwhile, that House Republicans had discussed expanding the staff of the Judiciary Committee; there is a possibility of impeachment proceedings.

"It was a passing acknowledgment that should Starr run over papers, the committee would need more personnel," said a Gingrich spokeswoman, Christina Martin.

The Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call has reported that Mr. Gingrich and other Republican leaders discussed drawing on a \$4.4 million fund to help pay for impeachment proceedings.



ANOTHER SARAJEVO OLYMPICS? — A Sarajevo soccer team exercising Monday in front of the Zetra skating stadium, used in the 1984 Winter Games but destroyed by Bosnian Serb shelling in 1992. The governor of Sarajevo canton, Midhat Haracic, wants the city to be the site of the 2010 Games.

IRAQ: U.S. Commanders Request 3,000 More Troops for Kuwait

Continued from Page 1

anticipating a refusal, Mr. Cohen did not ask Saudi Arabia for permission to use its air bases for attack missions.

He said that with two U.S. carriers in the Gulf the U.S. military could do without the Saudi bases.

"We are confident that the Gulf partners will provide the necessary support," he said at a news conference.

Mr. Clinton has committed the United States to impeding Iraq's programs to build weapons of mass destruction and is on course to launch an attack in the coming weeks unless it allows a UN program to destroy such weapons to go ahead.

The extra planes were being sent as the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, put off a visit to Italy and the Middle East, saying in New York that "the discussions and the search for a diplomatic solution have reached a critical stage."

The deputy prime minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, spoke by telephone Monday with Mr. Annan, the Iraqi News Agency

reported. It gave no details of the conversation, but said it had come "in the framework of continued discussions and contacts between Iraq and the international organization."

Mr. Clinton and Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, the sole state so far prepared to join Washington in a military attack, have said they prefer a diplomatic solution to the crisis but will go ahead with a substantial strike if needed.

Mrs. Albright, speaking at the American Enterprise Institute after talks with the foreign ministers of Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic about their plans to join NATO, said she had secured their backing for military action in Iraq. "They all said they are ready to support us as appropriate should military action become necessary," she said. She did not say whether she meant moral, political or material support.

Unlike the regional and international efforts given to the coalition formed in 1990 to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait, Washington has been unable to rally many countries to its call for military action to stop Iraq's weapons programs.

Although there is almost universal agreement that Mr. Saddam must comply with UN sanctions and stop blocking the teams funding and dismantling the weapons programs, most Arab states will not publicly back the use of force.

Mr. Annan said Monday that he did not intend to visit Baghdad "at the moment." But his spokesman, Fred Eckhard, said the secretary-general had not ruled out such a trip; rather, he was waiting to see what the Security Council wanted him to do and if "he feels he can accomplish something by going."

"He is monitoring the efforts of the various parties who are seeking a diplomatic solution and he hopes that one can be found," Mr. Eckhard said.

Mr. Annan said he had postponed a 10-day visit to Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Syria, due to have begun Wednesday after a brief stay in Rome.

The problem, according to the economists, is that European leaders would never have the willpower to enforce the so-called stability pact, a treaty under which countries would have to pay higher fines if they run excessive deficits.

"The stability pact isn't credible," Professor Neumann said. "We are saying, 'Why don't we postpone, get the budget clean and then start.' And if we cannot postpone it, then governments should apply the Maastricht criteria as strictly as possible."

The protest comes several weeks after a separate legal action by four other German economists, who filed a suit in the nation's constitutional court to block the euro plan.

The court is expected to decide on hearing the case at the end of this month, although most legal experts predict that the case will be dismissed.

But thus far, discussion about the euro remains a top-down affair.

"As far as I can see, there can't be a very politically effective campaign against the euro, because both of the great parties have agreed," said Werner Pfaffenbach, a professor of political economics at Dresden Technical University. "The public simply has no chance to get out its bad feelings about the euro, because the power elite has assembled its own feelings on the subject."

Halldor Laxness, Icelandic Author, Is Dead at 95

Reuters

REYKJAVIK — Halldor Laxness, a Nobel Prize-winning author and playwright, died Sunday after having suffered from Alzheimer's disease for several years. He was 95.

Mr. Laxness was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955, the only Icelander to win a Nobel Prize.

He was an overwhelmingly important author for Iceland, with more than 60 novels, plays and essays. Said Vesturin Olafsson, professor of literature at the University of Iceland.

Mr. Laxness began his career as a surrealist novelist, but is best known for his social realism of the 1930s.

"Due to his leftist politics, his reputation suffered substantially in Iceland, especially with the right, and didn't

recover until he was awarded the Nobel Prize," Mr. Olafsson said.

His best-known novel is "Independent People," a two volume work published in 1931-32. After winning the Nobel Prize, Mr. Laxness turned his hand to plays, which were shown mainly in Iceland.

Rene de Epelbaum, 77, Defied Argentina's Military Junta

BUENOS AIRES (NYT) — Rene de Epelbaum, 77, a founder of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo human rights group and one of its most dynamic members, died Saturday of a heart attack.

In 1977, during its crackdown on leftists, the military dictatorship abducted her three adult children, Luis,

Lila, and Claudio, and presumably killed them. Mrs. Epelbaum offered her home as a meeting place for mothers in the same plight. Soon after, the group of mothers began holding weekly protests in the main government square, the Plaza de Mayo.

Mrs. Epelbaum, who once taught literature, was a fearless and outspoken critic of the military government. Her writings, speeches, and trips abroad helped earn the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo international acclaim. She also is credited with bringing worldwide attention to the atrocities of Argentina's military regime, which relinquished power in 1983.

Dr. Robert Hughes Brisbois, 84, a retired social scientist and historian at

Morehouse College who wrote about the civil rights movement in its early years, died Jan. 23 in Atlanta. In 1984, Morehouse established the Brisbane Institute to promote his political and educational objectives.

William Lambert, 78, a pioneer of investigative journalism and winner of a Pulitzer Prize, died Sunday in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, of a respiratory ailment. A story he wrote helped compel Justice Abe Fortas to resign from the Supreme Court in 1969. His story, which won the George Polk award for magazine reporting, said Justice Fortas took \$20,000 in 1966 from the stock swindler Louis Wolfson while serving on the bench. Mr. Fortas resigned nine days after the story appeared in Life.

The author Halldor Laxness was the only Icelander to receive a Nobel Prize.

INDONESIA: Suharto Hints at New Measures to Bolster Economy in the Face of Growing Street Protests

Continued from Page 1

government perplexed over how to restore confidence and begin reviving the moribund economy.

The crisis has prompted public calls for Mr. Suharto to step aside



Courtesy Division of National Park Service (2)

From left: Janet (Gogo) Ferguson at Plum Orchard mansion; First African Baptist Church, where John Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette were married; vast, undeveloped stretch of beach, and the mansion Plum Orchard.

Cumberland Island, the Last Bastion of the Gilded Age

By Linda Hales

CUMBERLAND ISLAND, Georgia — The wedding party of famous friends slipping across the dunes had all the makings of a Vanity Fair sketch — society, culture, history, style. Controversy and politics weren't far behind. ... Heading for the endless white sand beach to witness vows at the ocean thundered were the actress Isabella Rossellini, the feminist writer Susan Faludi, John Henningway, son of Papa, plus others with connections far beyond this outpost of civilization.

No, they were not guests at the marriage of John Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette. That low-key, high-profile event 17 months ago gave a blast of recognition to this unadventured stretch of sand, marsh and forest. But this was the earlier wedding of an island royal: Janet (Gogo) Ferguson, descendant of a Carnegie steel baron who once owned all the eye could see. (Europeans wrap themselves in culture, but Ferguson's photo album records New World protocol as bare fact.)

Ferguson, a 46-year-old jewelry designer, is a glimmer of Old Money in an enclave that bears stark witness to the passing of the Gilded Age. She is also a point person in the current controversies over preserving her family's legacy on the island, notably an uninhabited mansion called Plum Orchard.

"When I start seeing my heritage fall in, I can sit back," she says.

CARNEGIES wielded power on this 18-mile-long (29-kilometer) barrier isle for a century or so, along with related Rockefellers and the Candler's of Atlanta (who founded Coca-Cola). But the dispersal of fortunes, the rise of the green movement and the lure of a picture-perfect vacation have brought change to this paradise isle.

"That kind of wealth is gone," says Ferguson. "Half the family comes down once a year."

Over the past quarter century, as resorts and developments proliferated up and down the Atlantic coast, these fam-

ilies sold off land to the national park system. Most reserved lifetime rights to the mansions and cottages their forebears had built before income tax. But the island is destined to revert to wilderness at some indefinite point in the future, a topic that tempts tropical in south Georgia.

"If you're interested in writing a novel, you've gone to the right island," says Representative Jack Kingston, Republican of Georgia, in whose district the island resides. "It's a Peyton Place full of intrigue."

In the latest round, Kingston is pushing a \$19 million cash-for-Carnegie land swap that would save federal funds, put Canders back in their island mansions for good, and thoroughly annoy conservationists.

Just an hour from the posh golf resorts of north Florida, Cumberland Island has the other worldly exoticism of a fashion shoot staged in, say, the Amazon. It is lush with gauntlet live oak and saw palmettos, wild horses and ibis in flight, and such eerie scenes as a weather-beaten duck-hunting cottage half swallowed by migrating dunes.

The nearest fashion statement is Ferguson's. She preserves nature in silver and gold wax-cast baubles — earrings shaped like raccoon bones, bracelets of rattlesnake vertebrae — which she sells on Martha's Vineyard. (Hillary Rodham Clinton has a "power jewelry" necklace of armadillo scales, she says.) Ferguson is godmother to Nicole Miller's child, which explains the presence of Miller's silk ties in her studio, the only "shop" in the wilderness.

Only a few dozen people reside in an area one-third larger than Manhattan. There are no parking lots, no signs, no noise. Only residents have been galvanized. To preserve the land, they gave much of it over to the National Park Foundation, creating Cumberland Island National Seashore. But some heirs are still cashing out.

"It's very frustrating to me," says Ferguson. "I can't imagine selling one inch of this place. My grandmother didn't set this up for that purpose. I don't have that right to sell."

Plum Orchard shows the risks of government oversight. Built in 1898, it is the grandest of extant dwellings and was among the first to go. The roof is held

Nunn, ambassadors or the Kennedy clan. A very private landing strip does exist. "You have to come in once and buzz the wild horses off the runway," says Ferguson. "It's like Africa."

On a tour, she stops at the family cemetery. Carnegies and Rockefellers are enclosed in Tiffany gates. But the spiritual heart of the compound — the 44-room turreted Castle Dungeness built in 1884 — is a stately ruin from a fire in 1959. The indoor squash court, pool and gym are still collapsing. A row of vintage autos is rusting under the pines.

To the north, the sprawling 1898 Greek Revival-style house called Plum, once the scene of dazzling dinners and now a ward of the park service, is under siege from salt air. In the past decade, the house has cost the park service more than \$700,000 on restoration. For about \$5 million, Denis Davis, the park superintendent, says, the right candidate could win a 50-year lease — and a foothold in the Gilded Age.

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Plum Orchard shows the risks of government oversight. Built in 1898, it is the grandest of extant dwellings and was among the first to go. The roof is held

over Tiffany turtleback lamps, carved woodwork and intricate wallpaper. But exterior paint is peeling, a balustrade is damaged, the indoor pool sits empty. No plan has been approved for its use.

One of the guests at Ferguson's beach wedding was the philanthropist Howard Gilman, who offered his nearby plantation to Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project. Ferguson may have envisioned something similar when she proposed an artists' colony for Plum Orchard. As many as 15 people could have lived and worked in isolation, dis-

tracted by an occasional armadillo crossing the lawn, or the splash of an alligator.

She formed a foundation, putting her old friend Kennedy on the board along with Rose Styron, wife of the author William Styron and godmother to her daughter. But it was too much of a party for wilderness advocates, park officials

said.

"I think they thought I was doing another Sedona," Ferguson says, referring to the New Age arts community in Arizona.

Two other proposals were rejected

recently, one for a bed and breakfast, the other a youth hostel. Neither would have preserved the period interiors. Neither had adequate funding.

"We are led to believe we are one of the least developed barrier islands in the world," Davis says. "This one is a natural treasure overlaid with fascinating history."

He is still looking for someone interested in both, preferably someone "with cash in hand."

Linda Hales is home and design editor of The Washington Post.

BOOKS

A CERTAIN JUSTICE

By P.D. James. 364 pages. \$25. Knopf.
Reviewed by Mark Baechtel

BEFORE the turn of the last century, Ferguson's great-grandfather Thomas and his brother Andrew controlled 25 percent of the U.S. steel business from their barony in Pittsburgh. Thomas and his wife, Lucy, joined the fashionably rich of their era, who flocked to the Atlantic to build winter retreats. After Dungeness, Lucy built five houses, one for each child, among them Plum and Greyfield.

That any of this remained undeveloped into the 1960s was due to a family trust. After it expired, a developer briefly acquired land and planned a resort. That's when heirs were galvanized. To preserve the land, they gave much of it over to the National Park Foundation, creating Cumberland Island National Seashore. But some heirs are still cashing out.

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Linda Hales is home and design editor of The Washington Post.

CHESSE

By Robert Byrne

IN the Grandmaster Open Tournament in Groningen, the Netherlands, the Exchange Variation of the Grunfeld Defense sets in sharp relief, after 6 bc, the classical white pawn center against the hypermodern black strategy of counterattack from the wings.

The point of 10...Bg4 is subtle; after 11 f3 Na5!, White can retreat with 12 Bd3, after which 12...cd 13 cd Be6 14 Rcl? Ba2 15 Qa4 Be6 16 d5 Bd7 17 Qb4 e6 18 Nc3 ed 19 Nd5 gave White enough positional compensation to make a draw in the game. The Grunfeld almost cannot be played by either Black or White without one pawn sacrifice or another.

During the last half-century, Black's gambit with 11...Na5! 12 Bd7 Rf7 13 fg Rf1 14 Kf1 has maintained itself well. White's extra pawn, at g4, is doubled and thus not a full pawn value and the white king is poorly placed.

There are plenty of these. The future corpse, Venetia Aldridge, is a criminal lawyer of large talents and small personal charm, working at a venerable London firm. As the early story unfolds, as she tries to save a young lower-class tough who is accused of murdering his prostitute aunt, we learn that she is in a position to ruin a number of professional lives, and is of precisely the temperament to do it. She wins her case, and the plot thickens when, on being freed, her client promptly forms an attachment to her daughter, Octavia, whom she's neglected in favor of her career and who is disposed to do whatever will discomfit her mother. We look on as Venetia schemes and manipulates, trying to bring a swift conclusion to the romance.

Delaying the murder this way rather than opening the book with a body on the floor allows James — and, by extension, her readers — to do a good deal of what amounts to cultural anthropology. By the time the lawyer is murdered — discovered in her locked chambers frozen in a particularly gruesome

tableau — we thoroughly understand her world and her colleagues.

It is also after the character becomes corpse at last that the book's real protagonists — Inspector Adam Dalgliesh and his crew — arrive on the scene. Dalgliesh — published poet, head of a highly specialized investigative unit at Scotland Yard, man of high professional standards and higher personal walls — moves with grace and acumen through the blood-soaked crime scene, guiding his more volatile staff through the interviews that unweave the tangled web of multiple deceit and mixed motive in which the lawyer's corpse is caught. Some complaints ought to be made: Information delivered in dialogue that is clearly for the benefit of the reader, not

the investigator. A long and over-literary letter that one of the main suspects writes, ostensibly to confess to a clergyman but more obviously to tie a coat bow around the package of one part of the crime while further muddying the waters for us. A secondary character who appears briefly and, it seems, primarily to add to the body count, and a twist at the end that appeared a bit too clever.

Still, these objections did little, ultimately, to mitigate my admiration of James's skill in delivering a thriller that dissipated the dreariness of a winter weekend while also engaging in philosophical speculation.

Mark Baechtel, a writer living in Iowa, wrote this for The Washington Post.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Phlegm to Mecca
5 Weather vane turner
9 I may have its own registry
14 Lamb's pen name
15 Champagne bucket
16 Pea —
17 Catalogue abbr.
18 Tens player in Big Business
20 Gathered, as berries
22 Spurts of the lung

Solution to Puzzle of Feb. 9

WAZE OFFS STATE
AMES HABE DONET
WINTERBORG OPIINE
ASTER IEGO OOGIE
SNEAK PLANNER
SAG INDIA PAIR
EVENER POLARBEES
PERU OBBES HILLE
TREMBLED I HANIE
EELEY BEEL OAS
SPARES BADGE
TAROT DWN ONSET
ABDUL MAJEDOMO
ISONE ARON EILMO
DEMIGS HASIT DEAL

DOWN
2 Rope fiber
3 Et — (and others)
3 Kind of jockey
4 Tennis player in House of Numbers
5 Sweater
6 Here, to Héloïse

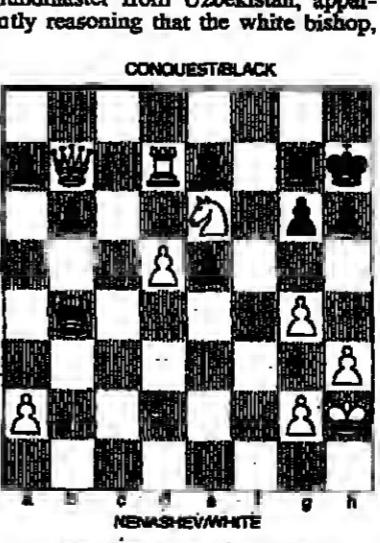
46 Parrot (out)
47 Asperger
48 Pizza portions
49 City on Sea
50 Chinese Bay
51 Cup d—
52 Late Chinese leader
53 Attorneys' org.
54 Soprano's song, maybe
55 Get ready
56 Twins player in Start the Revolution Without Me
57 Skeleton part
58 Part of UHF
59 Found of poetry
60 Skip over
61 Shelly's monologues
62 Tailor's meeting place
63 Assign an R— say

7 "The Old Curiosity Shop"
8 Clothesline alternative
9 Get-tan-quick application
10 Zodiac animal
11 Supermodel Macpherson
12 Ivy League team
13 Bit of force
14 Warty hopper
15 Contra-wave test, virus
16 Vast, in the past
17 Twins player in The Girl in the Kremlin
18 Ill-gotten gains
19 To any extent
20 Wheel spokes, e.g.
21 Catch some Z's
22 Ring around a legume
23 Cruiser's cousin
24 January, in Jalisco
25 Group of eight
26 Pre-fax communiqué
27 Vacation spot
28 Rani's wrap
29 A wee hour
30 Scrabble pieces
31 Chills and fever
32 Dinger
33 Chip in chips
34 Antike tool

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

61 "Arrivederci
62 Condo division
63 Sempriss
64 Bit of work
65 Time to remember

Position after 36...Qb4



though strong, is no better than the active black knight, tries to catch up in development with 17 Qd3? and allow the last half-century, Black's

gambit with 11...Na5! 12 Bd7 Rf7 13 fg Rf1 14 Kf1 has maintained itself well. White's extra pawn, at g4, is doubled and thus not a full pawn value and the white king is poorly placed.

After 15...Nc4, it has generally been held that White needs to keep his bishop with 17 Bf2, but Aleksandr Neushnev, a grandmaster from Uzbekistan, apparently reasoning that the white bishop,

With 25...Rf8, Conquest readied

26...Rf3!, but Neushnev reacted sharply with 27 Ng5! Maybe Conquest should have tried 27...Qd4 28 Rf1 h5 29 Rf8 Bf3 30 Ne6 Qe4 31 Qc8 Qb4 32 Qe8 e4 (32...g5? 33 Qg6 Kh8 34 Qf7 e3 35 Nf8 Qb1 36 Kh2 e2 37 Ne6 Qh7 38 Qf6 Kg8 leads to 39 Qf8 mate); 33 Qg6 Kh8 34 Qf6 Kg7 35 Qf8 mate).

After 33...Qe4?, because 34 Qe8! finishes the defense. And 33...Re6? loses to 34 Rf7 Kg8 35 de. Best would have been 33...Qc1, yet after 34 Qf1 Qf1 35 Rf1 Neushev should win the endgame.

After 37 d6!, Conquest gave up.

NYSE

Continued on Page 10

Invest with the Winners

BUSINESS/FINANCE

Jan 1, 1997 Dec 31, 1997 55% increase

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1998

PAGE 13

Beijing Approves Plant For Royal Dutch/Shell

Project Would Be Biggest Foreign Venture

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — Royal Dutch/Shell Group said Monday that the Chinese government had approved a \$4.5 billion chemical plant, the biggest-ever foreign-funded joint venture in China, eight years after the first contract was signed.

The Anglo-Dutch company will lead construction of an 800,000-ton-a-year ethylene plant in southern Guangdong Province.

"It has been certainly quite a long time. We are delighted about the approval," said Shell's Beijing-based spokesman, Jeremy Frearson.

The Dutch government is planning a ceremony to mark the signing of the contract to coincide with the visit of Prime Minister Li Peng to the Netherlands planned for Monday.

The oil giant has been discussing the joint venture since the late 1980s. Several issues, including technical, management and financial arrangements, and the selection of contractors, still need to be settled, Mr. Frearson said.

Once done, groundwork on the plant would begin by the end of this year and be ready for operation by 2003, he said.

Shell's Chinese partners in the project are China National Offshore Oil Corp., with a 25 percent stake; China Merchants Ltd., with 20 percent, and Guangdong Investment and Development Co., an arm of the provincial government, the remaining 5 percent. Shell will hold 50 percent.

China National Petrochemical Corp., or Sinopec, one of the first partners, eventually dropped out of the consortium, rather than cooperate with industry rivals.

The amended project included the

postponement of an oil refinery. If eventually approved, the refinery would increase total investment in the project to more than \$6 billion, Mr. Frearson said.

China plans to increase capacity for cracking ethylene to 5 million metric tons a year by 2000 and up to 10 million tons by 2010, up from 3.94 million tons now. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

■ Shell-Exxon Plan Approved

Royal Dutch/Shell Group said it and Exxon Corp. had won permission from the British government to spend £233 million (\$380 million) developing the Corvette and Ketch oil fields in the southern part of the North Sea, Bloomberg News Service reported.

Together, the two fields would produce a combined 450 million cubic feet of gas a day, representing 3 percent of the United Kingdom's peak demand level. The first field is to come on stream at the end of this year and the second in the fourth quarter of 1999.

The approval allows Shell and Exxon, which plan to spend £4 billion developing fields in the central and southern parts of the North Sea, to keep up with gas demand in the region. It also affirms the success of the two oil companies in tapping smaller deposits previously too expensive to develop.

"The discovery and development of Corvette and other small accumulations is a valuable resource which otherwise would have been considered uneconomical," a Shell official said.

Ketch, about 106 miles east of the Yorkshire coast, holds about 390 billion cubic feet of gas and is scheduled to produce as much as 150 million cubic feet of gas a day.

Saving the Supercomputer From the Dinosaurs' Fate

One Man's Battle for the World's Fastest Machine

By John Markoff
New York Times Service

Systems Inc. both failed when corporate sales developed slowly.

TODAY — In the arcane world inhabited by the builders of the world's fastest computers, Burton Smith is the last man standing.

A large rumppled man who speaks at a measured pace, Smith is a throwback to an era when men like Seymour Cray, Steve Chen and H. Danny Hills competed to design the fastest, most beautifully handcrafted supercomputers and assembled them painstakingly, one by one.

But Mr. Cray's first company, Cray Research, was acquired by Silicon Graphics Inc. in 1996, and his second company, Cray Computer, founded when he died from injuries suffered in an automobile accident in 1996.

"Mr. Hillis's Thinking Machines Corp. and Mr. Chen's Supercomputer

Today, most of the world's high-performance computers are assembled Lego-style as hundreds or thousands of off-the-shelf microprocessor chips from a handful of companies including Silicon Graphics, Intel Corp., Sun Microsystems Inc. or International Business Machines Corp. are booked together.

The high-performance computing market today is increasingly dominated by these massively parallel, or MPP, computers, which harness hordes of so-called killer micros that achieve supercomputing speeds by breaking large problems up into tiny chunks that can be solved simultaneously.

Surprisingly then, in his offices here overlooking Lake Union, Mr. Smith is on the verge of achieving something that the skeptics thought impossible: creating a new supercomputer company based on a new approach to parallel processing.

After a decade in the laboratory, Mr. Smith achieved a measure of vindication recently when the San Diego Supercomputer Center installed the first system to be shipped by his company, Tera Computer Co. The \$6.1 million system was underwritten by the Defense Department and the National Science Foundation.

Like many start-ups, Tera is still thought of as a huge gamble even by those who are rooting for its success. Nothing has come easily for the Tera engineers. More than a year late, only one processor of what may soon be a 16-processor supercomputer is working today. Tera's engineers are still wrestling with last-minute bugs.

Still, no one is ready to count Burton Smith out, and there are many who believe that his machine will shake up the computing world when it is complete.

"I admire his persistence," said Mr. Hillis, who is now a research fellow at

the University of Washington.

"Mr. Hillis's Thinking Machines Corp. and Mr. Chen's Supercomputer



The New York Times

Burton Smith of Tera Computer.

See COMPUTER, Page 17

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

Country	P.S.	D.M.	P.F.	L.M.	D.F.	P.F.	S.F.	Yen	CS	Pounds
Australia	1.4245	1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037	1.037*
Brasil	2.74	1.20	20.405	1.15	2.0897*	1.0733	2.0585	2.045	2.045	2.045*
Canada	1.4245	1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037	1.037*
France	1.4245	1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037	1.037*
Germany	1.4245	1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037	1.037*
Japan	1.4245	1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037	1.037*
U.K.	1.4245	1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037	1.037*
U.S.A.	1.4245	1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037	1.037*
Other	1.4245	1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037	1.037*

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, Paris and Zurich; fixings in other centers: New York at 4 P.M. and Toronto rates at 2 P.M. *Not quoted: N.A.: Not available.

** To buy one pound & 10-day one dollar. Units of 100 N.O. not quoted: N.A.: Not available.

Other Dollar Values

Country	P.S.	Canada	Per S.	Per S.	Per S.	Per S.	Per S.	Per S.	Per S.	Per S.
Austria	0.9999		1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Australia	1.4245		1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037
Brasil	2.74		1.20	20.405	1.15	2.0897*	1.0733	2.0585	2.045	2.045*
Canada	1.4245		1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037
France	1.4245		1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037
Germany	1.4245		1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037
Japan	1.4245		1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037
U.K.	1.4245		1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037
Other	1.4245		1.340	1.2273	1.2033	1.0744*	1.0503*	1.0454*	1.042	1.037

Forward Rates

Country	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Peru	1.4245	1.4245	1.4245	Japanese yen	124.22	123.44	122.16
Peru	1.4245	1.4245	1.4245	Swiss franc	1.4572	1.4514	1.4467
Canada	1.4245	1.4245	1.4245	U.S. dollar	1.4211	1.4194	1.4187
Denmark	1.4245	1.4245	1.4245	U.S. dollar	1.4222	1.4204	1.4197

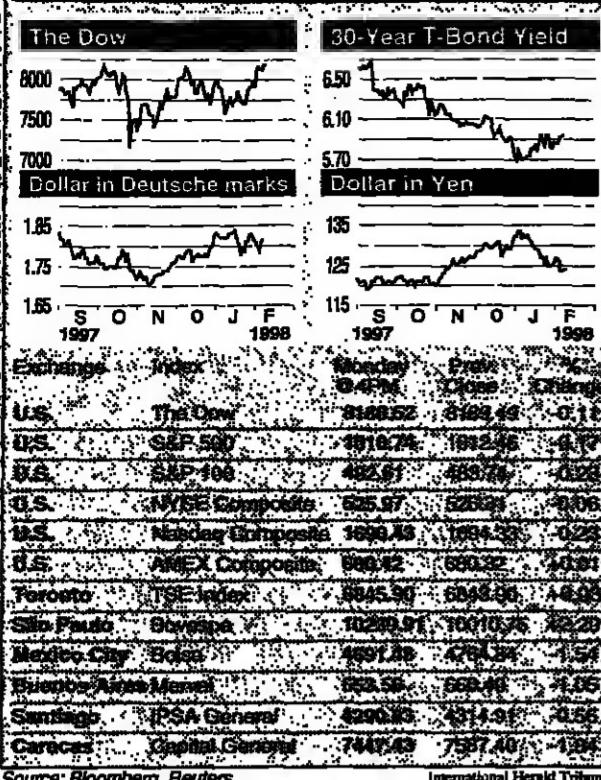
Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Cera Investment Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data: from the Associated Press; Bloomberg and Reuters.

Key Money Rates

United States	Today	Prev	Britain		
Discount rate	5.00	5.00	Bank base rate	7/4	7/4
Prime rate	9.75	9.75	Call money	7/4	7/4
Federal funds	9.75	9.75	1-month interbank	7/4	7/4
30-day CP (400)	10.25	10.25	3-month interbank	7/4	7/4
90-day CP (400)	10.25	10.25	4-month interbank	7/4	7/4
ML 30-day R-A	5.16	5.17	10-year OAT	5.14	5.13
Price	5.16	5.17	Price	5.16	5.17
French	5.25	5.25	1-month interbank rate	3/20	3/20
Interest rate	5.25	5.25	Call money rate	3/20	3/20
1-month	5.47	5.47	1-month interbank	3/20	3/20
3-month	5.53	5.53	3-month interbank	3/20	3/20
6-month	5.55	5.55	6-month interbank	3/	

THE AMERICAS

Investor's America



Euro Dissent Lifts Dollar Against Mark

Market News

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the Deutsche mark and other major currencies Monday after a group of German academics and economists called for a delay in adopting a single European currency.

The challenge to Europe's plan for a monetary union led investors to take a cautious interest in dollars, particularly in light of the continuing

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

ing concern about Asian markets, said Stephen Flanagan, chief dealer at Erste Bank.

Before the Asian financial crisis, any hint of a delay in European monetary union would lift the mark. But global uncertainty now highlights the strong U.S. economic fundamentals instead, Mr. Flanagan said.

The dollar also was supported by fears of a U.S. military strike against Iraq if President Saddam Hussein refuses to allow full access to United Nations arms inspectors, traders said. In late trading, the dollar was at 1.6165 DM, up from 1.6063 DM on Friday, and 1.4215 yen, up from 1.4201 yen. It also rose to 1.4653 Swiss francs from 1.4585 francs and to 6.0984 French francs from 6.0580 francs. The pound fell to \$1.6295 from \$1.6435.

Earlier in the day, the yen was up slightly on expectations of aggressive Japanese measures to spur the economy before finance ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrialized countries meet Feb. 21. But some investors expressed doubt. "The Japanese have only disappointed market expectations on these packages," Mr. Flanagan said.

Intel led the technology stocks down, falling 1 35/64 to \$6 after

CVS to Become Biggest U.S. Drugstore Chain

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WOONSOCKET, Rhode Island — CVS Corp. said Monday it would buy the Michigan drugstore chain Arbor Drugs Inc. for \$1.48 billion in stock, edging past Walgreen Co. to become the largest U.S. drug chain.

The combined company would have revenue exceeding \$15 billion in 1998, would own 4,100 stores in 25 states and the District of Columbia and would dispense about 12 percent of the retail prescriptions in the United States.

The acquisition will give CVS a foothold in the Detroit market, where it has no stores. CVS said the combination would produce annual

Is the U.S. Isolated on Data-Encryption Stance?

By Jeri Clausing
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is losing its battle to increase international controls over how reliably computer data can be scrambled to ensure privacy, according to a report that was to be released Monday by an independent research group.

The White House has been lobbying members of the European Union and other industrialized nations to back its efforts to place controls on "strong encryption," technology for scrambling data so effectively that the code cannot be broken and the content cannot be deciphered without a digital key. Data encryption is used to protect the privacy of financial transactions, medical records and business communications. Washington wants the ability to unscramble all

encrypted messages to keep tabs on criminals. In the report, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a Washington-based research group, says that in a survey of 243 governments showed that the United States is virtually the only democratic, industrialized nation seeking domestic regulation of strong encryption.

That finding contradicts the administration's assertion in congressional hearings that it has the support of most nations on this issue.

David Sobel, who directed the study by the research group for the Global Internet Liberty Campaign, a civil-liberties advocacy group, said of the administration: "They make the claim that other countries are accepting the U.S. position on this, then in an attempt to make that a reality, our government launched a worldwide lobbying campaign on encryption policy."

William Reinsch, the undersecretary for ex-

port administration at the U.S. Commerce Department, denied that the study contradicted the administration's assertions. "All the administration has ever said is that there are more countries that go farther than we do," Mr. Reinsch said. "The study confirms that."

The report comes as Congress prepares to renew what has become a contentious debate on an encryption policy. Currently, the United States controls only the export of strong encryption. But the administration is pushing for a system that would give a third party a set of "spare keys" to all scrambled data so that law enforcement agencies could gain easy access to a otherwise uncrackable computer files.

The FBI is pushing for a mandatory key-recovery system that would guarantee the agency "immediate" access to the communications and data of suspected criminals.

PageNet Will Cut 1,800 Jobs in U.S. And Take a Charge

Bloomberg News

DALLAS — Paging Network Inc. said Monday it would cut 1,800 jobs, or 30 percent of its U.S. workforce, after failing prices and competition from new wireless phones cut into its sales and led to a fourth-quarter loss.

The company said it would take a first-quarter charge of \$65 million to \$80 million as a result. It also plans to expand its sales force and consolidate customer service and other operations, saving \$45 million to \$55 million a year and aiming to raise sales by \$75 million.

Paging Network, the world's largest paging company, is struggling as new two-way pagers have failed to take off and prices for paging services have plummeted.

These market conditions led one rival, MobileMedia Corp., to seek bankruptcy-law protection last year and Metrocall Inc. to report a wider-than-expected third-quarter loss.

Paging Network had a fourth-quarter loss of \$42.7 million, compared with a loss of \$51.7 million a year earlier.

The company's shares closed Monday at \$14.0625, up 6.25 cents.

It planned charge would be its second since August, when John Fraze became chairman and chief executive after the two top executives of the company resigned.

A month later, PageNet said it would restate its 1996 and first-half 1997 results and take a \$22.5 million 1996 charge for pagers it had leased to MCI Communications Corp., that were not generating revenue.

Long Pound Pulls

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ED STOCK MARKETS

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administration at the U.S. Commerce Dept. denied that the study contradicted its own assertions. "All the other things we've ever said is that there are no more to go further than we do," Mr. van Miert said. "The study confirms that." The report comes as Congress prepares a new policy. Currently, the United States only the export of strong encryption technology is pushing for a law to all scrambled data so that law enforcement agencies could gain easy access to uncrackable computer files. The FBI is pushing for a mandatory key system that would guarantee "immediate" access to the communications and data of suspected criminals.

PageNet Will Cut 1,800 Jobs in U.S. And Take a Charge

DALLAS — PageNet Inc. said Monday it would cut jobs, or 7 percent, of its U.S. force, after failing to add revenue from new services developed into its sales and led to a quarterly loss.

The company said it would first-quarter charge of \$6 million as a result. It also to expand its sales force and operations, raising \$4.5 million in total, and another raise rate of \$1.5 million.

PageNet, the largest paging company, is growing as more companies plan to move to the Internet for getting their services automated.

The company, which has raised \$100 million since 1994, has been able to increase its sales and profit by 20 percent over the past year.

PageNet's chairman, Mr. Michael Marshall, said the company is looking forward to a bright future.

PageNet's stock price fell 1.5 percent to \$11.50.

NASDAQ

Monday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

Monday's 4 P.M.

The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

	12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	12 Month High	Low	Last	Chg
A-B-C										
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NYSE

Monday's 4 P.M. Close

(Continued)

(Continued)													
12 Month	High	Low	Stock	DIV	Yld	PE	100% PE	Sis High	Low	Lates	Close	Change	
14% 14%	MnrgSel	.56	.53	-	191	149*	104*	1612	-	-	-	-	
14% 12%	NSTFl	.60	.56	-	115	166	16	1616	+1/8	-	-	-	
16	14	NSTFl	.82	.52	-	213	159*	154*	154	-	-	-	
13%	13%	NSTFl	.85	.51	-	177	158*	154*	154	-	-	-	
16%	14%	NTXG	.54	.57	-	114	160	159	149*	+1/8	-	-	
49%	25%	OEA	.33	1.2	16	57.33	204*	154	264	+1/8	-	-	
24	13%	OEC Mid	-	-	-	261	204	204	204	-	-	-	
5.4%	40%	OEG Enrgy	2.66	5.1	14	403	523*	517	517	+1/8	-	-	
12	6%	OHM Cm	.361	.9	-	22	404	394	404	+1/8	-	-	
41%	25%	OM Grp	-	-	-	648	9	84	9	+1/8	-	-	
14%	7%	Onward	-	-	-	483	164	105*	105*	-	-	-	
25%	18%	Orbitair	-	-	-	22	266	31W	219	+1/8	+1/8	-	
14%	8%	Oakley	.04	.7	-	34	1550	110	94	-9/8	-9/8	-	
38%	16%	Oakwood	.04	.7	-	21	2266	374*	345*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
25%	21%	OasysSoft	.81	.5	-	165	838	226*	226	+1/8	+1/8	-	
30%	21%	OcdPrl	1.80	3.9	-	942	261	259	259	+1/8	+1/8	-	
107%	60%	OcfPpl	1.00	3.9	-	115	775	759*	759	+1/8	+1/8	-	
70%	38%	OceanEgy	-	-	-	24	527	454*	447*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
27%	14%	Ocetech	-	-	-	17	1420	1420	1420	+1/8	+1/8	-	
28%	12%	OcwenFins	-	-	-	25	254	254	254	+1/8	+1/8	-	
25%	12%	OcdPrl	-	-	-	26	5477	246*	238	+1/8	+1/8	-	
16% 11%	Officesbox	-	-	-	25	291	155*	154	+1/8	+1/8	+1/8	-	
28%	19%	Otton	1.25	4.5	19	998	273*	264	271	+1/8	+1/8	-	
41%	24%	Ovations	.52	1.3	-	12	2605	456	419*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
51%	24%	Owens	1.20	2.4	15	803	465*	454	459*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
23%	13%	Otken	.28	1.8	-	13	2223	155*	147	+1/8	+1/8	-	
40%	20%	Ongem-H2B	.58	6.5	17	174	394*	394	394	+1/8	+1/8	-	
34%	22%	Orencia	.081	.8	-	39	367	324*	319	+1/8	+1/8	-	
44	23%	Oremont	.5	1.2	22	1924	424*	424	424	+1/8	+1/8	-	
41%	28%	OneVibz	-	-	-	19	362	361*	361	+1/8	+1/8	-	
27%	11%	Oneida	.40	1.5	19	213	273*	254	254	+1/8	+1/8	-	
40%	25%	ONEON	1.20	3.4	17	67	204*	204	204	+1/8	+1/8	-	
10%	5%	Oppkins	.34	8.1	-	30	107	107*	107	+1/8	+1/8	-	
8%	7%	Opus	.28	5.7	17	123	8	79*	8	-	-	-	
49%	30%	OptivisGd	-	-	-	48	175	45*	45	+1/8	+1/8	-	
7%	5%	Orbigen	-	-	-	48	49*	49	49*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
21%	15%	OrcaS	.56	2.2	45	773	204*	204	204	+1/8	+1/8	-	
31%	17%	OrfordP	5.44	1.8	17	111	304*	304*	304*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
51	30%	OrionCap	5.44	1.4	-	376	454*	45	454	+1/8	+1/8	-	
20%	11%	Orthomed	-	-	-	30	685	184*	184	+1/8	+1/8	-	
30%	17%	Oryx	-	-	-	16	5169	259*	247*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
19%	13%	Osmonic	-	-	-	19	1000	1000	1000	+1/8	+1/8	-	
26%	10%	Ossungs	.5	2.5	-	1974	204*	204	204	+1/8	+1/8	-	
26%	16%	OvcrShp	.48	2.5	-	215	215*	204	204*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
16%	10%	OwensHm	.18	1.3	26	1791	154	15	154*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
26%	22%	OwensHm	.19	1.3	26	1920	384*	378	384*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
4%	2%	OwensHm	.20	1.3	26	1252	20*	271*	274*	+1/8	+1/8	-	
21%	12%	OwensHm	.20	1.2	11	197	294*	294	294	+1/8	+1/8	-	

	Div	Yld	PE	100m High	Low	Lasted	Orign	H
C	.222	-	-	1624	916	91%	91%	+3%
U	.222	-	-	1524	914	92%	92%	+2%
A	.222	-	-	1524	914	92%	92%	+2%
M	.222	-	-	1524	914	92%	92%	+2%

	594	595	Puccini	592	78	75	592
+3%	594	595	Puccini	592	78	75	592
+3%	594	595	Puccini 6	-	-	75	594
+3%	594	595	Puccini 5	-	-	75	594

Gold Exports

COMPUTER: *by Mark B.*

Snipping at the Chapel

Investors Seek Outsiders for SK Telecom

Reuters

SEOUL — Four foreign investment funds have called for SK Telecom Co. to appoint directors from outside the company, and analysts said Monday this could signal a turning point for shareholders' rights in South Korea.

The foreign funds — TEL Fund, Korea Fund, Oppenheimer Global Fund and Oppenheimer Variable Account Fund — hold a combined 9.85 percent stake in SK Telecom. They told the Securities Supervisory Board on Friday that they wanted to exercise their shareholders' rights in management.

SK Telecom declined to comment on the issue.

"SK Telecom's operations are good, but some of their business practices, such as favoring affiliates for contracts over perhaps a cheaper outside contractor, are questionable," said Lee Jeong Ja, head of research for HSBC James Capel.

But foreign fund managers will face an uphill battle at any shareholders' meeting; SK Group holds 21.85 percent of the company, and state-run Korea Telecom Corp. holds 18.99 percent, compared with foreign holdings totaling 33 percent.

"If they fail this time, they will try again next year when foreign ownership in telecommunications firms rises to 51 percent," Ms. Lee said, referring to the foreign funds.

Richard Samuelson, head of research for SBC Warburg Dillon Reed, called the foreign funds' move, an "interesting development" but expressed doubt that it would start a trend.

Still, he said, "It does send a strong signal that if you're amongst those companies where foreigners are interested, you'll need to be mindful of their opinions going forward."

Compiled by Our Staff From Reuters

HONG KONG — China Telecom said Monday it had more than doubled its stake in Hong Kong Telecommunications Ltd. by buying the 7.8 percent stake held by China Everbright Holdings Co.

China Telecom (Hong Kong) Ltd. said it had paid 12.8 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$1.65 billion) to raise its stake in the company, which is 54.2 percent owned by Cable & Wireless PLC of Britain.

In June, China Telecom bought a 5.5 percent stake from Cable & Wireless.

Hong Kong Telecom is Hong Kong's dominant telecommunications provider, although it has agreed to give up its monopoly on international calls as of Jan. 1, 1999. China Telecom is an arm of China's Telecommunications Ministry.

Everbright Sells Its 7.8% of Phone Firm

China Everbright, which is 51 percent owned by the Chinese government, sold its stake at a 7.7 percent discount to the average closing price of Hong Kong Telecom shares over the past 30 days.

Hong Kong Telecom's shares rose 45 cents to close at 17.30 dollars amid speculation that China Telecom would bid for the whole company, but both companies said that was unlikely. Chen Zhaobin, deputy chairman of China Telecom, said the company would keep the stake as a long-term investment.

"It's a very good investment for us when you look at what's available in Asia," he said.

A spokesman for Hong Kong Telecom said the deal was "between two shareholders" and did not affect

Hong Kong Telecom directly. But the "stronger representation" of China Everbright would be good for Hong Kong Telecom, he said.

Jason Billings, an analyst at SBC Warburg, said that while the transfer of the stake did not have direct implications for Cable & Wireless's holding, it put more pressure on the British company's efforts to expand on the Chinese mainland.

He said SBC Warburg believed that Cable & Wireless was "having difficulty" in talks aimed at selling more of its Hong Kong Telecom stake in exchange for entry into the mainland market.

David Gibbons, an analyst at HSBC James Capel, said the main reason for the sale was probably China Everbright's need to free up

cash for acquisitions.

"It has held the stock for nine months and made a good profit," Mr. Gibbons said. "They would not want to hold it forever."

Jerry Wong, an analyst with Scapower Securities, said the deal would ease the pressure of interest expenses at China Everbright as well as generate a sound return on investment.

It also raises the prospect of China Everbright seeking fresh acquisition targets now that it is flush with cash, he said.

Mr. Wong also said that if mainland authorities continued to deny it access to China, Cable & Wireless could look at other options, including selling Hong Kong Telecom shares to a company such as Singapore Telecommunications Ltd.

(Reuters, AFP)



Masao Nishimura, president of Industrial Bank.

Wining-and-Dining Inquiry

Bank of Japan and a Commercial Bank Are Targets

Agence France-Presse

TOKYO — The stain of corruption in Japan's finance sector spread Monday as the Bank of Japan battled bribery accusations and prosecutors moved on a commercial bank.

The string of scandals, stretching from corporate gangster payoffs by all the top brokerage houses to bribery at the Finance Ministry, has led into the corridors of the central bank and Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd.

The Bank of Japan announced an internal investigation after reports that commercial banks had entertained two of its officials at a cost of \$160,000.

On the same day, prosecutors arrested a former director of Industrial Bank of Japan for alleged involvement in a separate and widening bribery case involving the state-owned Japan Highway Public Corp.

Takayuki Kamoshida, a Bank of Japan ex-

ecutive director, said the bank would interview its officials about meetings with commercial banks.

Yasuo Matsushita, the governor of the Bank of Japan, also will voluntarily report any entertainment he has received from commercial banks in the past five years, Mr. Kamoshida said.

The national daily Mainichi Shimbun said Sunday that Tokyo prosecutors had asked commercial banks to report any wining and dining of two central bank officials.

The paper quoted anonymous sources as saying two Bank of Japan officials were suspected of each receiving 10 million yen (\$80,600) in benefits, such as restaurant meals and golf games, over a period of two to three years from 1993.

Mr. Kamoshida said the central bank would interview 600 senior officials and ask them to "voluntarily report" any entertainment received from commercial banks.

"If any conduct, as reported by newspapers, is discovered, we will take appropriate action," Mr. Kamoshida said.

Disciplinary action would range from a warning to a dismissal, but the bank did not plan to set any guidelines as to how much entertainment its officials would be allowed to receive from commercial banks.

In the separate case involving Industrial Bank of Japan, Kozo Umezawa, 57, was arrested for allegedly giving bribes in the form of lavish entertainment to Takehiko Isaka, accounting director of Japan Highway Public.

The bribes were allegedly extended to ensure Industrial Bank of Japan would be picked as underwriter for a foreign-bond issue by the government corporation.

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong-Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
17000	2000	20000
15000	1750	18500/7
13000	1500	17000
11000	1250	15500
9000	1000	14000
S O N D J F 1997	S O N D J F 1997	S O N D J F 1998
Exchange Index	Monday Close	Prev. % Change
Hong Kong Hang Seng	10,873.15	10,485.86 +3.89
Singapore Straits Times	1,645.72	1,536.91 +0.44
Sydney All Ordinaries	2,685.30	2,656.10 +1.10
Tokyo Nikkei 225	17,205.00	17,040.06 +0.97
Kuala Lumpur Composite	727.40	728.19 -0.11
Bangkok SET	530.50	535.98 +1.02
Seoul Composite Index	554.24	540.45 +2.55
Taipei Stock Market Index	8,634.61	8,544.14 +1.06
Manila PSE	2,050.69	2,036.78 +0.88
Jakarta Composite Index	5,29,254	535.43 -1.15
Wellington NZSE-40	2,257.97	2,242.78 +0.68
Bombay Sensitive Index	3,348.35	3,366.70 +0.55

Source: Telekurs

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• Foster's Brewing Group Ltd.'s first-half profit fell 1 percent, less than many analysts expected, to 167.8 million Australian dollars (\$1.29 million), as gains in its beer and wine divisions offset a rising tax bill. Sales rose 15 percent, to 1.58 billion dollars.

• Sharp Corp. of Japan doubled prices on its home appliances in Indonesia to offset the depreciation of the local currency, the rupiah, which has lost about three-quarters of its value since August. Sharp said it had also recently raised prices in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand.

• Canon Inc.'s current, or pretax, profit rose 17 percent last year, to 146.8 billion yen (\$1.18 billion), amid brisk copier sales. The maker of office equipment and cameras said sales rose 10 percent, to 1.535 trillion yen, and net profit rose 46 percent, to 8.62 billion yen. Figures are for the parent company; group results are to be released next week.

• Hitachi Ltd. of Japan and Northern Telecom Ltd. of Canada agreed to jointly develop optical communication modules, which serve as the backbone of computer networks, to try to meet surging demand in the market for equipment that provides access to the Internet, interactive cable-TV, video on demand and other emerging technologies.

• Salomon Smith Barney Inc., a unit of Travelers Group Inc., purchased one of Australia's leading brokerage houses, County NatWest Markets, for 130 million Australian dollars from National Westminster Bank PLC of Britain, which has been selling off brokerage and investment-banking units.

• San Miguel Corp.'s net profit fell 51 percent last year, to 2.96 billion Philippine pesos (\$72.9 million), as the brewer's foreign operations were hit by Asia's financial crisis; sales rose 8 percent, to 67.1 billion pesos, while operating expenses increased 12 percent, to 63.5 billion pesos.

• Isuzu Motors Ltd., an affiliate of General Motors Corp., plans to develop a generation of small pickup trucks for the American company. The Japanese company said the trucks would be produced in the United States, South America and Southeast Asia.

Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters

Seoul's Gold Exports Soar as Koreans Answer Appeal

Agence France-Presse

SEOUL — The government's campaign to collect gold has turned the precious metal into South Korea's second-largest export item, according to data released Monday by the Korea International Trade Association.

The group said the country exported \$696 million of gold in January, a surge of 54.3 percent from a year earlier.

Gold exports made up 16.1 percent of the country's total exports of \$4.33 billion in the first month of the year, the agency said. Electronic goods remained the leading export, the trade association said, accounting for \$1.85

billion, or nearly 43 percent of the total, in the month.

The agency said Daewoo Corp., which was the first South Korean company to take part in the gold-collection campaign, had seen the largest jump, tripling its gold exports from a year earlier to \$520 million in January.

South Korea was largely an importer of gold before the campaign — which asks South Koreans to donate gold items to raise funds to help the country out of its economic crisis — was started in January.

Since then, long lines of people have formed outside banks and other collection points as

citizens have turned in items including wedding rings, lucky charms and sports trophies.

The trinkets, trophies and rings are melted down into ingots and sold for dollars, which are sent to the Bank of Korea.

In January, South Korea collected 165 metric tons of gold valued at about \$2 billion dollars from 2.43 million people, local news papers reported.

Dealers in Hong Kong said private gold holdings in South Korea were believed to exceed 2,700 tons. The Yonhap news agency said the holdings had a value of \$27 billion to \$30 billion.

COMPUTER: One Man's Battle for the World's Fastest Machine

Continued from Page 13

Walt Disney Co. "Burton is the last independent supercomputer designer."

Supercomputers, defined as the fastest computers available at any given time, were first used for designing nuclear weapons and predicting weather, but have increasingly been used in applications ranging from designing drugs to simulating car crashes. But with the end of the Cold War and the decline of government financing for supercomputing and the simultaneous surge in the power of desktop computing, innovations increasingly come first from the PC and consumer electronics worlds.

That has led to a decline in research into new computer designs. The number of companies trying to build the most powerful 64-bit processors needed to drive the next generation of computing has dwindled to a handful.

With the death of Mr. Cray in 1996, many computer designers felt that the final chapter had been written for an industry that only a decade before was widely seen as crucial to the nation's technological survival.

But the people making those predictions did not reckon with Mr. Smith.

"I'm feeling very good about where we are now in spite of the fact that most people in the computer business think we're out of our minds," he said.

WON: Snipping at the Chaebol

Continued from Page 13

to work out and implement group-wide restructuring plans as required by the next government."

The emergency economic committee, which includes members of the current administration of President Kim Young Sam along with key economic advisers to President-elect Kim Dae Jung, made plain its view that the coordination and planning offices were vehicles for maintaining the control of chaebol owners and top executives over a group regardless of the wishes of stockholders.

"The most important element is the rights of small shareholders," said You Jong Kuen, a top economic adviser to Kim Dae Jung. "We're going to allow small shareholders to file class-action suits."

One basis for such suits, according to members of President-elect Kim's team, would be the diversion of the manpower and resources of a chaebol company to serve on a coordination and planning office that has nothing to do with the company's own interests.

Coordination and planning

offices for the chaebol generally are located in a company with closest ties to the group's chairman and major owner.

"The chaebol will have difficulty defending their control," Mr. You said.

Analysts said they thought majority shareholders had the right to question the policies of a company might eventually prove effective.

"From a shareholder's standpoint," said Hank Morris, a financial consultant in Seoul, "it's not fair to have a single company spending its resources on other companies even if they're in the same group."

"If you look at it from that viewpoint, what do they get out of supporting the group?" Mr. Morris said. "Now they may be able to do something about it."

Lee Hun Jae, vice chairman of the committee, indicated that the attack on the coordination and planning offices was a key part of the effort at reforming the chaebol.

said chaebol chairman should be willing to revise their entire control structure at regular shareholders' meetings.

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THE EUROPE FUND will pay on February 20, 1998 a dividend of USD 1 per unit to all the registered unitholders.

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Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1998

WORLD ROUNDUP

West Indies Wins

CRICKET Carl Hooper hit 94 not out Monday as the West Indies beat England by three wickets in the first test in Trinidad. Hooper scored the winning boundary as West Indies reached its target of 282 shortly after lunch on the final day. Hooper and David Williams, who scored his test best of 65, shared a stand of 129 after their team had slumped to 124 for five wickets. (Reuters)

Graf Postpones Return

TELEVISION Steffi Graf, the former World No. 1, has again postponed her comeback and will not play at this week's Paris Open, the German news agency SID reported Monday. The agency quoted officials in Paris who said Graf would not be able to play because of problems with her injured knee. (Reuters)

Simpson Wins Playoff

GOLF Scott Simpson came from eight strokes back in the final round, then birdied the first hole of a playoff against Skip Kendall to win the rain-shortened Buick Invitational in San Diego on Sunday. Simpson earned \$378,000 as he won his first title since 1993. He closed with an 8-under 64 to match Kendall (70) at 12-under 204 for three rounds. Tiger Woods, Davis Love III and Kevin Sutherland tied for third at 205. (AP)



Scott Simpson chipping onto the green during the playoff.

Congo and Guinea Win in African Cup

Brazil Crushes El Salvador in Gold Cup

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — Congo beat Togo, 2-1, Monday in Group B of the African Nations Cup thanks to two penalties.

The Congolese took the lead through a disputed 57th minute penalty converted by striker Tondelou Mbilia. He also scored from a second spot kick in the 73rd minute after Yaovi Abalo brought down Kasongo Banza.

The young and inexperienced To-

nko penalty was awarded when Roberto Carlos, Real Madrid's Brazilian left back, fell when challenged by Ramis. Ramis was sent off for protesting. His teammate Djakminha, another Brazilian, shouted abuse at the referee after the final whistle.

FRANCE Bourg-Pernos, an amateur team from central France, beat Montpellier of the first division, 3-2, in the second round of the French Cup on Sunday. Montpellier became the sixth first-division club to fall over the weekend.

In one of two clashes between first-division teams Sunday, Metz beat Bastia, 1-0, when Bruno Rodriguez, a former Bastia striker, headed the only goal of the match in the dying seconds. Two Bastia players, Frank Juretti and Prince, were ejected, and a fight erupted after the final whistle.

Monaco beat Bordeaux, 1-0, thanks to a header by French international David Trezeguet in the 34th minute.

NORTHERN IRELAND Lawrie McMenemy was named Northern Ireland's manager Monday. McMenemy will have former Scottish international striker Joe Jordan as his assistant and former Northern Ireland keeper Pat Jennings as goalkeeping coach.

Guinea, which began the game with an entire team of foreign-based players, went level on points at the top of group A with Cameroon, which beat host Burkina Faso 1-0 on Saturday.

gold cup Brazil qualified for the semifinals of the Concacaf Gold Cup when it beat El Salvador, 4-0, in Los Angeles on Sunday night.

Brazil will play either the United States or Mexico next depending on the result of Jamaica's match against El Salvador on Monday.

The match was the second part of a doubleheader. Paul Hall scored twice as Jamaica beat Guatemala, 3-2, in the opener.

Brazil, which had scored just one goal — on a penalty kick — in its first two Gold Cup matches, overwhelmed El Salvador with superior speed and touch and scored two early goals.

SPAIN Real Madrid missed a chance to go to the top of the Spanish first division Sunday when the Brazilian Savio Bortolini blasted a controversial injury-time penalty high and wide in the 2-2 draw at Deportivo Coruna.

The 24-year-old Serb was fined £15,000 (\$24,750) and placed on the transfer list last month after he spat toward Villa fans when they berated him for missing a chance against Blackburn.

Real twice trailed but fought back to equalize 12 minutes from the end. The draw keeps it a point behind Barcelona, which drew, 1-1, in Tenerife.

McMenemy, who is English, was as-

sistant to Graham Taylor during Taylor's reign as England coach in the early 1990s. McMenemy managed Southampton for 12 years.

ENGLAND Savo Milosevic, a Yugoslav international striker, refused to take his place for Aston Villa on the substitute's bench in his team's 1-0 victory over Derby on Saturday.

"Milosevic simply refused to play," The Daily Express quoted Brian Little, the Villa manager as saying.

"I had intended to use him as one of the substitutes, but when I called him into my office and told him, he said he was not interested and did not want to appear for this club again."

The 24-year-old Serb was fined £15,000 (\$24,750) and placed on the transfer list last month after he spat toward Villa fans when they berated him for missing a chance against Blackburn.

Real twice trailed but fought back to equalize 12 minutes from the end. The draw keeps it a point behind Barcelona,

which drew, 1-1, in Tenerife.



Fitzroy Simpson of Jamaica, foreground, and Martin Machon of Guatemala sliding after a battle for the ball.

Whole New Ball Game Since Fall

Spring Training to Test Marlins' 'Raffle' and Other Big Changes

By Mark Maske
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Welcome to baseball in the late 1990s, when spring training can begin with an expansion team looking every bit as imposing as the defending World Series champion.

Major league teams will begin opening spring training camps this week, and it has become clearer than ever that the six weeks spent in Florida or Arizona are not what they once were.

For decades, spring training was revered as that lazy time with little more to do than dream about this bitter batting 300, that pitcher winning 20 games or this club finding a way to capture the pennant. These days, spring training is the time when everyone catches his breath and tries to figure out how the pieces fit together now the players are done scurrying from team to team.

The baseball landscape looks far different than it did 106 days ago, when the Florida Marlins won the World Series in their fifth season.

The Marlins are defending champions in name only. They bought a World Series team last season on an \$89 million free agent spending spree authorized by the team owner, Wayne Huizenga. And they raffled off a World Series team this winter.

Victories on the field did not translate into success at the Pro Player Stadium turnstiles, and Huizenga ordered a payroll-slashing dismantling that the general manager, Dave Dombrowski, carried out by trading, among others, the pitchers Kevin Brown, Robb Nen and Al Leiter; the outfielders Moises Alou and Devon White and the first baseman Jeff Conine.

The third baseman Bobby Bonilla and the right fielder Gary Sheffield are likely to be in Florida's Opening Day lineup only because of their too-hefty trade contracts.

The Marlins are blessed with promising young players, and their lineup probably will remain dangerous. But the Marlins' manager, Jim Leyland, has been left to patch together a pitching staff with far too little help for the 22-year-old postseason hero Livan Hernandez — who has all of nine regular season triumphs on his big league résumé.

"I hear a lot of people saying that we'll be noncompetitive, and I don't think that's the case," Dombrowski said recently. "Obviously you don't like to have to do what we did, but the financial realities of our situation dictated that."

"When it's all said and done, we'll have question marks. But we'll also have a nucleus of players that, I believe, we can build around."

It not only was an off-season in which the World Series champions were disassembled. It also was an off-season in which the American League manager of the year, Davey Johnson of the Bal-

timore Orioles, resigned and the National League Cy Young Award winner, the Montreal Expos' Pedro Martinez, was traded.

It was an off-season in which the Boston Red Sox raised the salary bar yet again by acquiring Martinez and signing him to a six-year, \$75 million contract that, with an option year, could be worth \$90 million over seven seasons. It was an off-season in which the Arizona Diamondbacks assembled what promises to be the sport's best expansion team ever.

The Diamondbacks and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays become baseball's 29th and 30th franchises this season, and neither was bashful about spending money this winter. The Diamondbacks, in particular, seem poised to be unusually competitive, especially after their recent signing of the free-agent pitcher Andy Benes gave them a legitimate No. 1 starter.

Azores will have a first-season player payroll of close to \$30 million. The Diamondbacks will have a lineup that will include Matt Williams, Jay Bell, White and the rookies of the year prospect Travis Lee, and Benes will be the anchor of a starting rotation that will have Willie Blair, Brian Anderson, Jeff Suppan and Bob Wolcott.

But the Diamondback general manager, Joe Garagiola Jr., played down talk last week that his club could be a playoff-contender in its first year.

"We're in a pretty tough situation," Garagiola said. "I look around our division and I see some pretty good teams. We just want to be competitive every night."

It should be an intriguing 1998 season. In a year with expansion-thinned pitching, will Mark McGwire or Ken Griffey Jr. reach Roger Maris's season home run record? Will Tony Gwynn make an ex-

tended run at a .400 batting average?

Will baseball resolve its commissionership? Bud Selig has served as acting commissioner since September 1992. The owners have had a search committee working for months, but most baseball people say they believe Selig will accept the job on a permanent basis — perhaps next month, when the owners are scheduled to meet in Florida.

Will there be further realignment? Se-fig's Milwaukee Brewers become the first team this century to switch leagues with their move to the NL this season, but the owners have promised further shuffling. Will the Minnesota Twins end up in North Carolina? No franchise has been permitted to move since the Senators left Washington following the 1971 season and became the Texas Rangers.

And will the Orioles break through and reach the World Series after two straight exhilarating defeats in the AL Championship Series? Ray Miller inherits the club's managerial job after the feud between the majority owner, Peter Angelos, and Johnson that led to Johnson's departure. The Orioles lost their closer, Randy Myers, via free agency and will turn over those duties to Armando Benitez, Norm Charlton and Arthur Rhodes. But they re-signed the center fielder Brady Anderson, and added Joe Carter to their lineup and Doug Drabek to their starting rotation.

"The 'one' thing that has to be answered is: 'Is in the bullpen with our closer,'" Pat Gillick, who has indicated that this will be his final season as the Orioles' general manager, said last week. "I think we have enough bodies that Ray has some options. We're scrambling around looking for a fifth-starter last year, and now we have a fifth-starter with Drabek. That's a plus. I think we have a little more depth overall on our ball club. I'm pretty optimistic."

CARIBBEAN CRUISING — The Dominican Republic's Michael Franklin sliding safely to second as Puerto Rico's shortstop, Jose Hernandez, awaited the ball during a 9-4 victory for the Dominican Republic that made it 4-0, all but ensuring it will win the Caribbean Series in Venezuela.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

CARIBBEAN SERIES

IN PUERTO LA CRUZ, VENEZUELA

W THURSDAY, FEB. 5 Pct.

Dominican Rep. 4, Puerto Rico 2, 14

Venezuela 1, Mexico 2, 25

Wednesday, FEB. 4, 14 Innings

Puerto Rico 4, Dominican Rep. 2, 14

Thursday, FEB. 5

Puerto Rico 3, Mexico 2, 14

Dominican Rep. 5, Venezuela 3, 14

Puerto Rico 5, Dominican Rep. 2, 14

Sunday, FEB. 8

Puerto Rico 9, Dominican Rep. 6, 14

Mexico 6, Venezuela 6, 14

Friday, FEB. 6

Puerto Rico 3, Mexico 2, 14

Dominican Rep. 5, Venezuela 3, 14

Puerto Rico 5, Dominican Rep. 4, 14

Saturday, FEB. 7

Puerto Rico 2, Dominican Rep. 1, 14

Mexico 2, Venezuela 1, 14

Monday, FEB. 9

Puerto Rico 9, Dominican Rep. 6, 14

Mexico 6, Venezuela 5, 14

Tuesday, FEB. 10

Puerto Rico 10, Dominican Rep. 9, 14

Mexico 9, Venezuela 8, 14

Wednesday, FEB. 11

Puerto Rico 11, Dominican Rep. 10, 14

Mexico 10, Venezuela 9, 14

Thursday, FEB. 12

Puerto Rico 12, Dominican Rep. 11, 14

Mexico 12, Venezuela 11, 14

Friday, FEB. 13

Puerto Rico 13, Dominican Rep. 12, 14

Mexico 13, Venezuela 12, 14

Saturday, FEB. 14

Puerto Rico 14, Dominican Rep. 13, 14

Mexico 14, Venezuela 13, 14

Sunday, FEB. 15

Puerto Rico 15, Dominican Rep. 14, 14

Mexico 15, Venezuela 14, 14

Monday, FEB. 16

Puerto Rico 16, Dominican Rep. 15, 14

Mexico 16, Venezuela 15, 14

Tuesday, FEB. 17

Puerto Rico 17, Dominican Rep. 16, 14

Mexico 17, Venezuela 16, 14

Wednesday, FEB. 18

Puerto Rico 18, Dominican Rep. 17, 14

Mexico 18, Venezuela 17, 14

Thursday, FEB. 19

Puerto Rico 19, Dominican Rep. 18, 14

Mexico 19, Venezuela 18, 14

Friday, FEB. 20

Puerto Rico 20, Dominican Rep. 19, 14

Mexico 20, Venezuela 19, 14

Saturday, FEB. 21

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1998

SPORTS

The Master vs. the Teenager**Bryant Adds Flash, but Jordan Steers East to All-Star Victory**By Selena Roberts
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A brush with the flu left Michael Jordan's body a bit achy and mushy. And yet, he could still feel the significance of the moment playing out beneath the pinwheel ceiling of Madison Square Garden.

So Jordan was absorbing everything, storing it all in a mental hope chest of sorts, because he was all but certain that the 43rd annual National Basketball Association All-Star Game on Sunday night was his last. It is not the type of event he will miss if he goes, but the camaraderie and competition.

So he will miss nights like this. Beneath the commercial stuff of this game, there was a basketball court and a challenge. There was the daring teenage pimp, Kobe Bryant, who was staring into Jordan's watery eyes. And the 19-year-old kid, the youngest player to start in an All-Star Game, was on the attack.

It was the perfect remedy for Jordan. He watched Bryant's helicopter dunks and playground moves add up to 18 points. But in the end, Jordan had 23 points, a 135-114 victory for the East All-Stars and his third most valuable player trophy.

"He came at me pretty early," Jordan said of Bryant. "I would if I was him. If I see someone that's maybe sick or whatever, you've got to attack him. He attacked. You know, I liked his attitude."

Jordan saw a little of himself in the player so often picked to slip into his place after he retires. And Jordan had to admit it was a fun matchup. So how could he be serious about leaving all this, about walking away with the league's youngsters nipping at his heels?

"I'm very serious about it, actually," Jordan said. "If I can't continue to have fun, then it's not worth playing. If you can't have fun out there with an environment that feels comfortable to you, what's the purpose of playing?"

"How many times do you want me to say it," Jordan continued. "If Phil Jackson is not in Chicago, I'm not playing. I'll say it once more."

Jordan was loud and clear about his intention to retire if Jackson, the Bulls' coach, was not back next season. And yet, there is a sense of denial about his retirement: few people believe he will leave, especially when he is still the best at what he does. Jordan does not leap from the free-throw line to dunk anymore. He is a complete player now, but it was a process.

"Kobe is going to go through the same thing," Jordan said of the second-year Laker. "When you come to these games, it's O.K. to have the creative game, but with good, solid basketball, you'll be able to play with anyone."

Bryant is more flash than fundamentals at this stage, making him the perfect All-Star Game participant. But more than that, Bryant seems to have that certain something that makes him Jordan-like. Maybe it is the telegraphic quality of Bryant, a player who makes teenage girls squeal and high school boys grow their hair high like his.

Bryant is not a starter for the Lakers, yet he was voted to start for the West.

It took Bryant to bring what was a somewhat docile crowd of corporate types and celebrities to their feet as he did a 360-degree dunk on a fast break in the first half of a game in which ordinary jumpers brought yawns. Unless, of course, that jumper came from Jordan. He scored the first points of the game, then took Bryant's dunk and raised him a

ALL-STAR GAME									
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	PF	Pts		
McAuley	17	2-1	0-0	1-3	2	0	12		
Garnett	21	6-11	0-0	1-3	2	0	12		
O'Neal	18	5-10	2-4	2-4	1	1	18		
Jordan	22	7-16	2-2	2-4	1	1	18		
Fitzgerald	21	3-6	0-4	2-3	1	0	9		
Baylor	21	2-3	0-2	1-2	1	1	5		
Jones	25	7-19	1-2	7-11	1	1	15		
Robinson	22	3-4	9-10	2-0	1	1	15		
Hill	17	4-11	0-0	0-1	2	0	8		
Kemp	25	5-10	2-2	2-1	1	1	15		
Melvin	22	3-6	0-2	1-2	1	1	9		
Jordan	22	18-23	2-2	17-20	3	2	22		
A. Hardaway	12	3-5	0-2	0-2	1	0	12		
T. Hardaway	17	3-6	0-2	0-2	1	0	6		
Williams	19	2-3	0-0	3-10	1	2	4		
Sampson	20	2-4	0-0	0-6	1	0	6		
Miller	16	6-14	1-2	0-0	1	0	14		
Rice	16	6-12	0-0	1-0	2	0	14		
Smith	16	6-12	0-0	1-0	2	0	14		
Malone	20	5-14	1-2	1-3	2	0	12		
Total	240	57-109	10-22	13-32	34	9	114		
West		23	23	23	23	14			
East		23	23	23	23	14			
5-Pt. goals—West 4-22 (Bryant 2-11, Jordan 1-1, Jones 0-7), East 11-26 (Rice 4-6, T. Hardaway 3-5, Smith 2-5, Hill 1-1, Jordan 1-1, Miller 1-2, Kemp 0-1, A. Hardaway 0-1, Walker 0-3). Fouled out—Nunes. Rebounds—West 49 (Jordan 11), East 57 (Kemp 11). Assists—West 34 (Payton 13), East 22 (Jordan 8). Total fouls—West 9, East 13.									

dunk and a couple of fall-away jumpers. "He hit those two turnarounds," Bryant said. "And I was like, 'Cool, let's get it on.'"

And it was on. Everyone on the court seemed to clear the way for Jordan to face the future of the league in Bryant.

"I kind of looked over at Jordan and he had this look in his eye," Reggie Miller said. "He was like, 'You're right, they are trying to plug this as Kobe going after Michael.' We all took that personal."

The East, which outshot the West, 52 percent to 40 percent, had all the bravado. But Bryant, who hit 7 of 16 shots in 22 minutes, might have had a chance to push Jordan for the MVP award if the West's coach, George Karl, had not seated him for the fourth quarter.

Karl is an alumnus of North Carolina. Jordan is, too. So conspiracy theories were brewing.

"I think I'd better stay away from that one," Karl said. "Best for me not to answer that really, it doesn't make a lot of sense. Michael is Michael."

It is not as if there were no other stars,

but it seemed as if Jordan's one-on-one with Bryant overshadowed everything else.

"I think there was a little too much of that stuff," said David Robinson, the San Antonio center. "It's hard. Some of us midgeneration guys, we're all about trying to win the game and aren't into that one-on-one kind of deal."

But this was an All-Star Game, where it's all about style. So what's a gritty rebounder like the Nets' Jayson Williams to do?

"Just have fun," Williams said. "I'm just in awe. I was getting on the bus with the guys today and thought, I ain't never been this close to \$1 billion in cargo."

There was concern that Jordan would be a no-show. On Thursday, Jordan dropped a golf game in Las Vegas, Nevada, because he started feeling ill. By Sunday, he had a fever of 101 degrees Fahrenheit (38.3 centigrade) and was listed as questionable for the game.

"If it had been yesterday," he said, "I wouldn't have been able to play. I spent the whole day in bed yesterday so I could get up and play."

By being out, he avoided being peppered by questions until Sunday night: Why would he quit now? Why can't he be a Knick? Although Jordan was sitting in the locker room usually reserved for Patrick Ewing, he was sure he was never going to be a permanent fixture in the Knicks' locker room. But wait, didn't he say he would consider being a Knick?

"The only thing I ever said was, 'If I was single,'" Jordan said. "And I'm not single, so —"

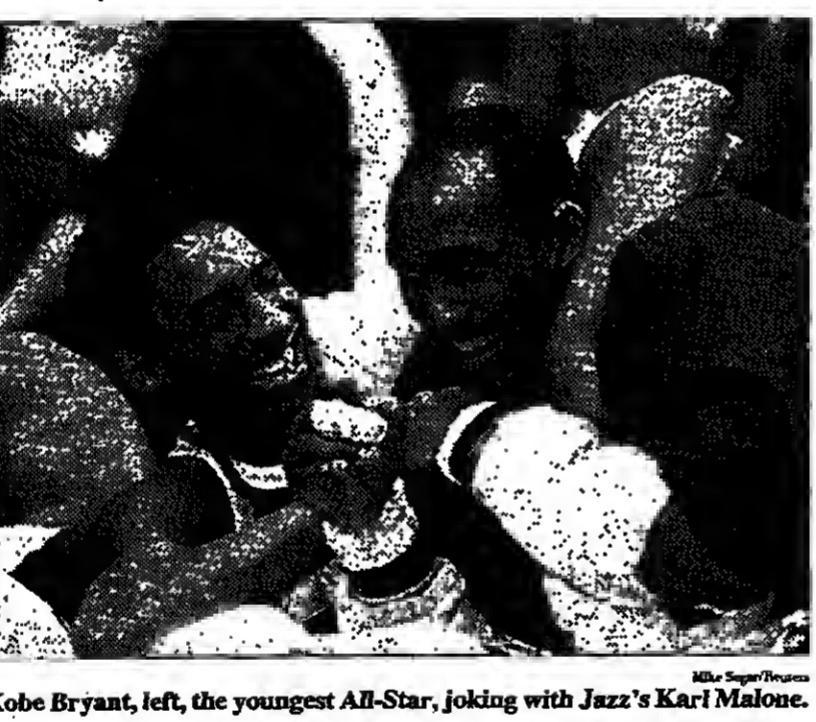
So this was, apparently, Three All-Star Game MVP's and out.

"People don't want to see it," Jordan said. "Or people just don't want it to happen. This day was going to happen sooner or later."

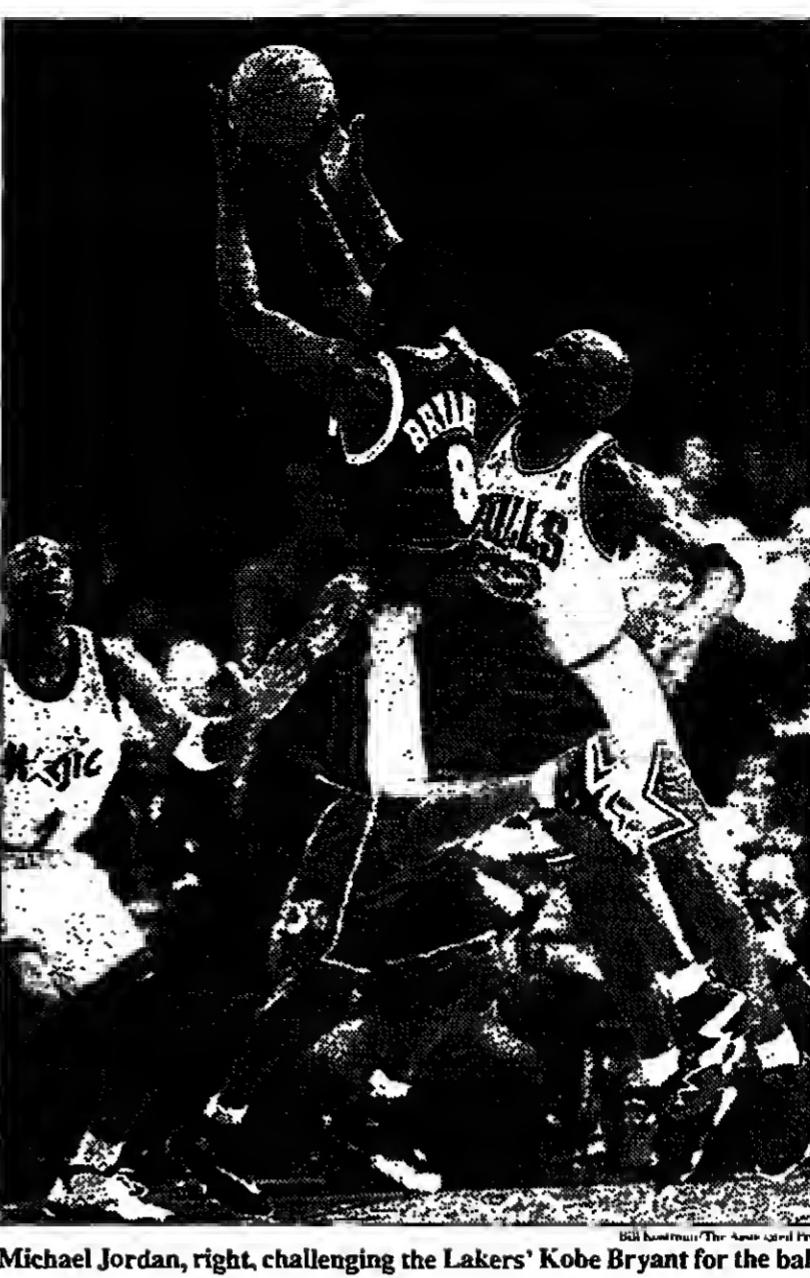
If anyone believed Jordan, they were doing as he was on Sunday night: soaking in every sight and emotion of his last All-Star Game.

Players from the East and West seemed to sense this. After he received the MVP trophy, the All-Stars greeted Jordan as he left the floor. Some hugged him; others patted him on the head.

"Everyone respects him," Anfernee Hardaway said. "I think this was it for him. This was his last one. Everyone will remember this."



Kobe Bryant, left, the youngest All-Star, joking with Jazz's Karl Malone.



Michael Jordan, right, challenging the Lakers' Kobe Bryant for the ball.

Tension Rising in NBA In Clash of Egos and PayBy William C. Rhoden
New York Times Service

was missing. Dennis Rodman, the league's best rebounder and defender, was missing. Allen Iverson, the Sixers' flashy second-year star, was missing.

There are no signs that the majority of players understand that the owners are taking collective aim at their wallets. And the players, caught up in the day-to-day grind, aren't collectively focused on a possible lockout after the season.

Even Michael Jordan, the symbol of what the game has become, is not immune. If young players were unclear about the owners' determination to reel behavior and salaries closer to shore, they have to look only at Chicago's take-it-or-leave-it attitude toward Jordan's threat to quit.

"I don't sense that this has gotten to the point where there's animosity," Dave Checketts, president of Madison Square Garden, said before the All-Star Game on Sunday night. "But there is real concern on everybody's part about what we're doing to our business. About the delicate balance between being a business and being something that's so public, the creation of heroes, love of the game, adoration of fans."

"That balance, between the amount of money changing hands and a perceived lack of good behavior — on everybody's part — has the ability to hurt what we're trying to do," he added.

The coaches, with the owners' blessings, used this game to send messages. Rod Strickland, the assists leader,

according to both the league and the players' association, an unprecedented number of players are making over \$10 million who really don't have to be involved. Then you have the guys who are making the minimum who have to really go with what the league says if they want to get their money.

"I don't think there's enough unity," said Anfernee Hardaway, the Orlando guard. "Only a handful of guys are making over \$10 million who really don't have to be involved. Then you have the guys who are making the minimum who have to really go with what the league says if they want to get their money."

According to both the league and the players' association, an unprecedented number of players are making the NBA minimum salary, under \$300,000. Fewer players can afford a lockout.

"I don't think there'll be a strike because they just signed a \$3 billion TV contract. Somebody's got to play," said Jayson Williams of the New Jersey Nets. Informed that under the terms of that contract, the NBA will receive television revenue in the event of a strike, Williams said, "Then the NBA needs to be applauded."

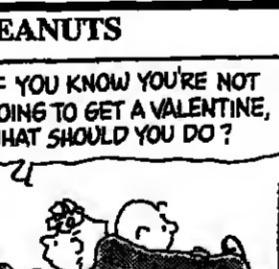
So what about the partnership?

"In bad times you tend to circle the wagons together," the NBA commissioner, David Stern, said. "When times are very good, there are splits."

No. 4 Kansas 80, Missouri 70 In Lawrence, Kansas, Paul Pierce scored 29 points and RaeL Fainga added 22 as Kansas extended its home winning streak to 58 games. Missouri, which upset Kansas 74-73, in Columbia on Jan. 19, lost for the 20th straight time on the road. Kelly Thomas scored 17 points for Missouri (13-10, 5-5).

No. 7 Kentucky 79, Villanova 63 Jeff Sheppard and Nazz Mohammed each scored 18 points and Heshim Evans had 17 as Kentucky beat Villanova in Philadelphia. Mohammed also had 11 rebounds and five steals for Kentucky (21-3), which has won 11 of its last 12 games. Howard Brown and Jerome Medley each had 15 points for Villanova (9-12).

No. 20 Massachusetts 72, Xavier 62 In Cincinnati, Charlton Clarke scored 18 points and Massachusetts built an 18-point lead before holding on to defeat Xavier. Massachusetts (17-6, 9-1 Atlantic 10) improved to 5-0 in road conference games. Gary Lumpkin scored 19 points for Xavier (15-6, 7-4), which lost for the first time this season at Cincinnati Gardens, where it had won 16 in a row.

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VERY GOOD

CALVIN AND HOBBES

BOY CALVIN THAT STUFFED TIGER EVERYWHERE HE GOES.



DO YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT? I MEAN, SHOULDN'T HE BE PLAYING WITH REAL FRIENDS?



OH, I THINK HE WILL WHEN HE'S READY. DIDN'T YOU EVER HAVE AN IMAGINARY FRIEND?

JUMBLE**THYIC**

Persons of standing spend a lot of time doing this.



Most strings begin in the center letter and end in the outer letters, as indicated by the arrows.

WINTER OLYMPICS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1998

OLYMPIC ROUNDUP

Banned Bobsledder Asks if He Can Stay

BOBBLED Michael Dionne, an American bobsledder who failed a test for a banned stimulant, asked a sports arbitration panel Monday to allow him to stay in the Olympics, even though he cannot compete.

Michael Dionne, a pusher of the No. 3 U.S. four-man sled, went before the International Court for Arbitration in Sports to appeal his three-month ban for ephedrine.

The urine sample was collected at a World Cup meet in Calgary in November. Dionne's three-month suspension is retroactive to the date of the test, so he will be eligible to compete Feb. 22, the last day of the Games. He told the panel that he had inadvertently taken the drug as part of a cold medicine and asked that his suspension be wiped out.

Dionne had been granted a stay of execution, which allowed him to march in the opening ceremony Saturday. He will not be able to compete even if the suspension is overturned, because he has been replaced in the sled and the deadline for roster changes has passed. (AP)



Toturo Kobayashi, 8, watching the speed skating on Monday wearing a Viking hat decorated with a Norwegian flag.

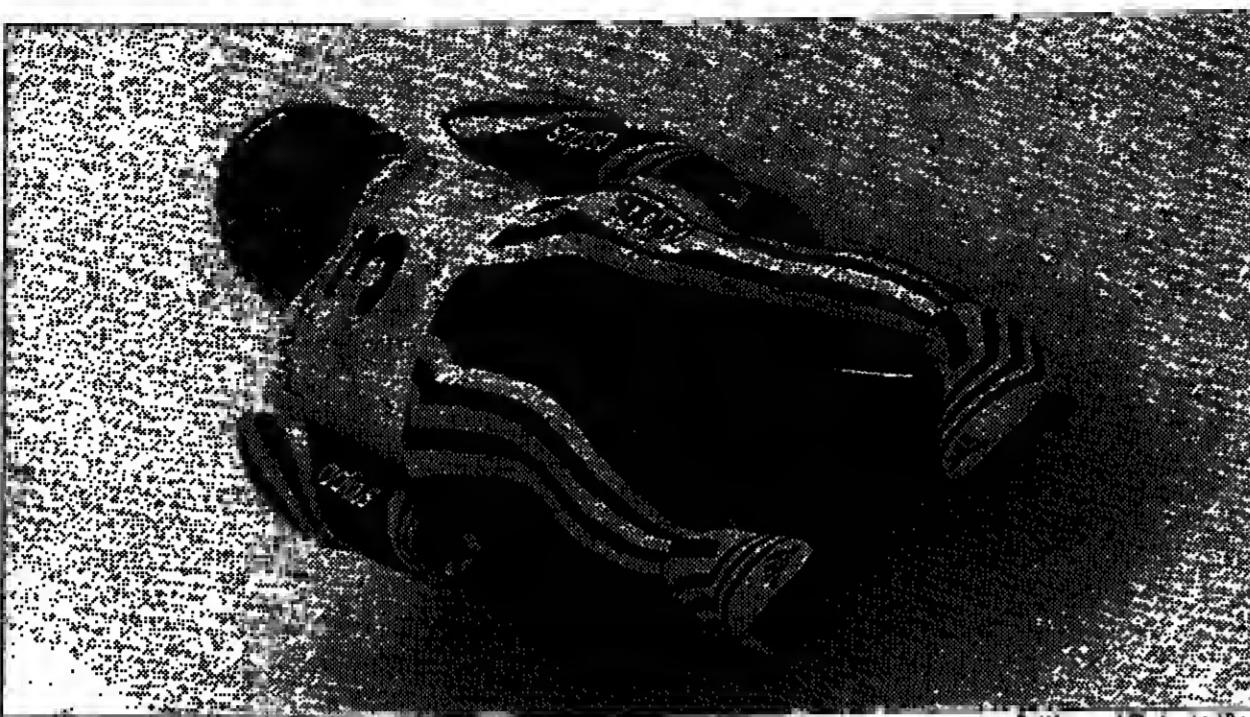
Chinese Player Hurt

ICE HOCKEY Gong Ming, a Chinese defenseman, slid into the boards behind her goalie and had to be carried from the ice on a stretcher in the third period of the game between China and Canada.

The 5-foot-7, 150-pound Gong was chasing down a loose puck and lost her footing. "The nature of her injury wasn't immediately known, but she appeared to hit the boards first with her hip, then her shoulder before rolling onto her face. (Reuters)

The Big Question...

CURLING "You know the question is going to come up, so you prepare yourself for it — pretty much for the rest of your life," Stacey Lapis, a member of the U.S. women's Olympic curling team, on being asked repeatedly, "Just what is this sport?" (LAT)



Armin Zoeggeler of Italy making his third run in Nagano. He again emerged victorious.

Cheerful Bavarian Claims 3d Gold**Hackl Extends Olympic Luge Streak With New Boots and Faster Sled**

By Christopher Clarey
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — To the untrained eye, luge resembles a lottery on ice with its very high speeds and nearly identical times. But how often does anyone win the lottery three times in a row?

Georg Hackl may indeed be a fortunate man, but the third consecutive Olympic gold medal that he won Monday in men's luge was no coincidence.

"He is the strongest person in the head that I have ever met," said his coach, Thomas Schwab.

"He's always smiling," said Adam Heidt, an American luger who finished ninth. "Luge is kind of like a poker game. You can't let anyone else know what you've got, and he's great at that."

What Hackl has is a superior temperament and superior equipment, and that is not merely a reference to his colorful, controversial new booties. A trained metalworker from Bavaria, Hackl built his first sled at the age of 16, and at the age of 31 he apparently builds and drives them better than ever.

Hackl's postoperative back has hurt its start times. The course that supposedly favored heavier sliders, Markus Tischbirek, the Austrian who finished just 4 handclap behind Hackl in the last two Olympics, produced a Herculean but ultimately Sisyphean effort. In spite of all this, Hackl's performance on Nagano's Spiral track was the most dominant of his Olympic career.

Over the course of the two-day competition, the Germans became the first Olympic champion to record the fastest time in each of the four runs, and his combined time of 3 minutes 18.436 seconds put him 503 one-hundredths of a second ahead of the silver medalist.

Armin Zoeggeler of Italy; 657 one-hundredths of a second ahead of the bronze medalist and fellow German, Jens Mueller, and 1.22 seconds ahead of Prock, who added a disheartening final paragraph to his litany of Olympic woe by bumping a wall on his final run and finishing fourth.

"I took 150 percent risk, and I made a big mistake," said a despondent Prock, who took the silver behind Hackl in 1992 and, more maddeningly, 1994, when he lost by slightly more than one-hundredth of a second.

Though Prock's error cost him a medal, it did not cost him the gold. Hackl had already put that out of reach in the first three runs, and when he crossed the finish line after his final run and thrust his right arm triumphantly overhead, he had become the first luger and sixth person to win a Winter Olympic event three consecutive times. The others were the figure skaters Gillis Grafstrom, Sonja Henie and Irina Rodnina; the nordic combined skier Ulrich Wehling and the American speedskater Bonnie Blair, who won the women's 500 in 1988, 1992 and 1994.

"It is an awesome feeling," said Hackl, who will continue sliding next season but essentially ruled out another Olympics in 2002. "I think the greatest victory for me was in 1994 because it was so close. It was my very best performance for driving because I think that I was at a slight disadvantage with my sled."

A slight disadvantage can make a large difference in luge, and this time Hackl took no chances. He designed new metal spikes to improve his starts, which have become a weakness since he underwent disc surgery on his back in October 1996. He tinkered with his sled and developed better runners.

He and Mueller, who won the gold in 1988 for East Germany, also showed up on the opening day of competition wearing new and presumably improved racing boots, which quickly drew an official protest from the American coach, Wolfgang Schadler, who claimed the boots were against regulations because they were not available to all the teams.

The race jury quickly rejected the protest.

"Hackl could drive a luge with these shoes," said Karl Rief, the Austrian coach, pointing to his hiking boots and grinning. "The difference was in the sled. You could hear it when he went by. I think the runners were smaller than other people's runners. He is a clever man."

And a fulfilled man. In the finish area, Hackl called his companion, Margit, on a cellular phone and shared his delight.

"She didn't propose," he cracked.

On the victory stand, he grabbed a German flag and waved it as Mueller and the Zoeggeler hoisted him on their shoulders, and before an official car whisked him down the hill for the official medal ceremony, Hackl made a detour by the beer tent for a quick Stein of his region's favorite thirst-quencher.

"I am no citizen of the world; I'm Bavarian," Hackl said.

An American Love Story

Wendel Suckow was the top American, finishing sixth in his final race before retirement. But, unlike Hackl, he got engaged. The Associated Press reported.

After the race Suckow proposed to Kim Fluhmann and gave her a diamond ring. She said yes.

Suckow kept the diamond ring in his backpack in the athlete's waiting room during his two runs on Monday.

Russian, 17, Knows What He Has to Do to Triumph

By Jere Longman
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — Before leaving Russia, the 17-year-old coach gave the 17-year-old student a lesson about figure skating's solar system. The European championships are on one planet, Alexei Mishin told Alexei Yagudin, and the Winter Olympics are on another planet.

The pressure will be immense, the coach told the skater. You must stay here, you must ride the bus there. The

FIGURE SKATING

old man seemed more nervous than the teenager. Finally, the teenager had enough.

"Shut up," Yagudin told Mishin. "I know what I have to do."

At 17, Yagudin has improbably become the European champion and an Olympic gold medal candidate with soaring jumps and towering confidence. Monday, three days before the men's short program, he landed an effortless quadruple-toe, triple toe combination. He will attempt it again in Saturday's long program. In the spring, Yagudin plans to try a quadruple axel. He is young enough that everything seems possible and immediate.

"I am not nervous," Yagudin said with the assuredness of a man and the complexion of a teenager. "It's the same as any other competition."

Until he won a bronze medal at the 1997 world championships, few had expected him to qualify for these Winter Games. His training partner in St. Petersburg, is the defending Olympic champion, Alexei Urmanov. In Nagano, it seemed that Urmanov would attempt to defend his title while Yagudin would have to wait his turn. But Urmanov withdrew from the world championships last March with a groin injury and has not competed since. So the champion Alexei stayed home and the callow Alexei has come to the Olympics in his place.

"It is the biggest tragedy of his life," Mishin said of Urmanov.

Because of Urmanov's injury, Russia qualified only two skaters for the Olympics, Yagudin and Ilya Kulik. If Yagudin is in awe, he is doing a good job hiding it. He has apparently been waiting for this chance since he was 13 and he watched on television, while Urmanov won the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

"I will win in Nagano," Mishin said that Yagudin told him.

Yagudin remembers the story differently.

"I said maybe in the future I will win a medal," he said Monday, smiling at Mishin's embellishment.

The future has arrived by Federal Express. Beginning Thursday, Yagudin will challenge Kulik, Elvis Stojko of Canada and Todd Eldredge of the United States. Four men fighting for three medals. If there is any extra incentive for Yagudin, it is his awkward

OLYMPIC SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, FEB. 16	
ALPINE SKIING, Men's & Women's Combined (Slalom), 8:30 a.m.	FIGURE SKATING, Women's Short Program, 9 a.m.
CURLING, Kvitfjell — Men: Japan vs. Sweden, 9 a.m.; Women: Norway vs. Canada, 9 a.m.	CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, Women's 10 km classic, 9 a.m.
ICE HOCKEY, Germany vs. Sweden, 7 p.m.	FIGURE SKATING, Women's Short Program, 2 p.m.
ICE HOCKEY, Norway vs. Britain, 2 p.m.	FIGURE SKATING, Women's Short Program, 2 p.m.
ICE HOCKEY, Norway vs. Sweden, 7 p.m.	FIGURE SKATING, Women's Short Program, 2 p.m.
ICE HOCKEY, Norway vs. Sweden, 7 p.m.	FIGURE SKATING, Women's Short Program, 2 p.m.
ICE HOCKEY, Norway vs. China, 4 p.m.	FIGURE SKATING, Women's Short Program, 2 p.m.
LAWNS, Izumo — Women's Single, 2 p.m.	FIGURE SKATING, Women's Short Program, 2 p.m.
SKI JUMPING, Hakuba — K90 Individual, 2 p.m.	FIGURE SKATING, Women's Short Program, 2 p.m.
SKOOTERKARTING, Nagano — Women's 3000 meters, 3 p.m.	

home life. His parents are divorced, and he lives with his mother and his grandmother in a St. Petersburg apartment. They share the apartment with strangers, using a common bathroom and kitchen but speaking seldom or never at all. An Olympic gold medal will mean a new apartment, a new life.

"I'm not thinking exactly that I have to skate for my family, but some of these thoughts are in my head," Yagudin said.

He can win, but it will be difficult. Stojko is a three-time world champion and the Olympic silver medalist. Eldredge is the 1996 world champion and extremely reliable, if not engaging. Kulik defeated Yagudin at an Olympic preview just before Christmas and again at the Russian championships. Mishin believes the Russian skating federation will work behind the scenes in Kulik's favor.

Kulik is from Moscow. Yagudin is from St. Petersburg. There is a natural rivalry and tension between the two camps.

When Mishin arrived at the European championships without Urmanov, he called Yagudin and 15-year-old Yevgeni Plushenko "my garbage and my refuse." Then Yagudin won, and now Mishin is saying, "He's a pretty good piece of garbage."

"Why do you criticize me?" Yagudin asked Mishin recently. "My jumps are perfect. My triple axel is the highest in the world."

Did he mind this teenage impudence? Not at all, Mishin said.

"If he's not believing he's good, nobody's believing it," the coach said. "First you have to become a champion in your mind."

SNOW:
Storms Delay Events

Continued from Page 1

Japanese volunteers who chipped away at the ice on the steps that lead to the grandstands, Olympic offices and press workrooms.

The slalom course had disappeared beneath a layer of white at least a foot deep.

Blizzard is too harsh a word to describe the storm. The snow fell gently, but in remarkable quantity, a mountain equivalent of a monsoon swept in from the nearby sea. Occasionally, the snow would subside, and the sky would brighten, triggering fleeting optimism that the competition would finally begin.

Then the gods would do their work again, and the snow would return.

Hundreds of camouflage-clad members of the Japanese self-defense force dotted the mountainside in a war against the winter onslaught.

As Japanese rock music blared from loudspeakers, the men and women were in a frenzy of activity, their bright red or yellow plastic shovels a virtual blur of color.

Nagano Olympic banners were put to use as gravity chutes, carrying the shovels snow downhill and to the side of the course where it was carted away. But with the snow falling at an inch an hour through the morning, after more than a foot fell overnight, the battle was lost. For the second consecutive day, crowds of spectators, many with bundled-up small children in tow, faithfully trudged up the hillside toward the finish line, standing in the cold for hours until being told that the day's event was canceled.

As the crowds departed down treacherously slick walkways and streets, the sun emerged and the sky cleared, revealing the panorama of the Hakuba valley and surrounding mountains.

Many of the super-G skiers took advantage of the break in the weather for a freestyle run down the women's hill.

Snow was predicted to resume overnight, and continue through Tuesday, but a forecast seems only a best guess in Japan.

"Most of the athletes have been to Japan and we've never gotten races off on schedule here," Podivinsky said. "Everybody has backup plans and they're kicking in now."

Team Canada Awaits a Mighty Duck

By Joe Lapointe
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — Olaf Kolzig, the Washington Capitals' goaltender, was on a plane somewhere over Japan on Monday when his German national team lost to Belarus, 8-2, and was knocked out of the Olympic ice hockey competition.

"I found out after we landed at the airport; I saw the score on Japanese TV," Kolzig said. "It's disappointing. I made this whole trip basically for nothing."

Germany is one of eight teams playing in the tournament's three-game preliminary round, which started Feb. 7. Only two of those teams, one from each four-team pool, advance to the main draw, which includes more traditional hockey powers like Canada, Russia and the United States. Assisted by France's victory over Japan, Belarus clinched the Pool B title with the victory over Germany. It will close out competition Tuesday in a game against Japan.

With National Hockey League players competing in the Olympics for the first time, Germany expected a major boost from players like Kolzig, the Colorado Avalanche defenseman Uwe

to play, Murray replied: "Oh, yeah. His health is the first priority, whether it's the Olympics or any other situation. He's feeling well enough to play."

Canada plays its first game on Friday. Kariya said last week that it was his fourth concussion. He had hoped to play last Wednesday but sat out because of nausea, headaches and fatigue. He has said frequently that he was looking forward to playing in what would be his second Olympics.

In 1994, Kariya played well, but Canada won only a silver medal part because Kariya was stopped during a postgame shoot-out by Tommy Salo, the goalie for Sweden, which won the gold through the tie-breaker formula.

Although he is a Canadian national, Kariya is of Japanese descent on his father's side. Hockey is not universally popular in Japan, but Kariya is known here and would likely become a local favorite if he plays in the Olympics.

U.S. Wins in Women's Hockey

The Associated Press

NAGANO, Japan — Three of the favorites won Monday in the women's ice hockey tournament.

The United States, favored along with Canada, the reigning champion, to play in the gold medal game, defeated Sweden, 7-1. Canada beat China, 2-0, and Finland crushed Japan, 11-1.

Sweden briefly led against the United States. The Swedish team leaped en masse from the bench when Pia Moelius deflected Therese Sjoelander's power-play shot past U.S. goalie Sara DeCosta to make it 1-0 midway through the first period. It was Sweden's only shot in the period and one of three in the game.

China made Canada work for victory. Chinese goalie Guo Hong, the closest thing her team has to a star, turned back 38 of 40 Canadian shots.

"He wasn't feeling well enough to get on the flight," Murray said. "But we talked with him. He'll be here."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1998

Right Wax Paves Way To Gold for Finn Skier

The Associated Press

HAKUBA, Japan — If you doubt that Olympic medals can hinge on seemingly trivial details, consider the matter of ski wax.

Bjorn Dahlie of Norway, a five-time Olympic gold medalist in cross-country skiing, chose the wrong wax for the 30-kilometer (18-mile) event Monday. He finished a distant 20th.

Mika Myllylae of Finland made the right choice, and claimed his country's first gold medal in cross-country skiing since 1964.

The Finns tested skis for an hour before the race, contested in a persistent snowfall that left 46 fresh centimeters (18 inches) on the course.

"I tried six or seven pairs, I chose one pair, but I changed my mind at the last moment and picked a different set," Myllylae said. "They had a hit of gliding wax. We were lucky with waxing; it was very important in today's race."

Myllylae grabbed a Finnish flag in the home stretch and held it between his teeth as he crossed the line in one hour 33 minutes 55.8 seconds. Then he got on his knees and kissed the snow.

"Conditions were very hard, and the track is one of the toughest I've seen in years," he said. "This 30K was like a 10K in easier conditions."

While the Finns used gliding wax, the Norwegians chose a sticky wax with more grip.

"Norway still had a medalist, Erling Jeune, who took the silver 1:31.1 behind Myllylae. But Dahlie finished more than six minutes behind, while the defending champion, Thomas Alsgaard, dropped out midway through the race while he was in 50th position. Silvio Camerano, a member of the Italian team that won the 1994 relay gold medal, won the bronze, 1:22.7 behind the winner.

Jeune, who used the same wax as Dahlie, said the Norwegians had problems getting the right mixture.

"We tested before the start, but we didn't know what the weather would be like during the race," said Jeune after winning his first Olympic medal.

Myllylae's victory gave Finland its first men's gold medal since Eero Mäntylä won two in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1964.

Last year, Myllylae became a hero in his country when he won the 50-kilometer title at the World Championship in Trondheim, Norway. Four years ago at Lillehammer, he took bronze in the 30-kilometer and silver in the 50-kilometer races, plus the bronze in the relay.

The only close-to-predictable outcome was a bronze for Germany's Ursula Distl, who also won bronze four years ago at Lillehammer, Norway.

Myllylae's unexpected triumph brought Bulgaria its first Winter Olympic gold medal ever. The silver went to another hitherto middle-ranked biathlete, Elena Petrova of Ukraine.

Dafovska's unexpected triumph brought Bulgaria its first Winter Olympic gold medal ever. The silver went to another hitherto middle-ranked biathlete, Elena Petrova of Ukraine.

The only close-to-predictable outcome was a bronze for Germany's Ursula Distl, who also won bronze four years ago at Lillehammer, Norway.

She credited her success to "a perfect combination of shooting and skiing" — as well as the fact that her skis were waxed just right for the fresh snow.

Dafovska finished 29th in the event at the 1994 Winter Olympics and currently ranks only 51st in the World Cup. But she has won two bronzes in world championships.

The medalists overcame heavy snowfall and changes in wind direction, each successfully hitting all but one of the 20 targets with their rifles. Hard skiing in soft snow did the rest.

Disl, 27, had victory in her rifle sights, but on her 20th and last shot she veered off target. She threw back her head and let out a cry.

"I was a hit mad at missing that 20th

WINTER OLYMPICS



Yekaterina Dafovska skiing to victory Monday on the cross-country course of the 15-kilometer biathlon.

A First for Bulgaria: Olympic Gold

Dafovska, Ranked 51st, Beats a Ukrainian in Women's Biathlon

By Dennis D. Gray
The Associated Press

shot, but that's normal for me," she said. "Anyway, a bronze is a bronze. I'm happy."

Others were not. Magdalena Forsberg of Sweden, currently No. 1 in World Cup standings, missed three targets, which added three penalty minutes to her time and put her into 14th place.

Forsberg appeared exhausted at the end, stumbling once on the final stretch, but unlike many of her competitors did

not collapse on crossing the finishing line.

Although snowfall tapered off toward the end of the race, the heavy snow demanded more endurance.

The event Monday was the first of six events of Olympic biathlon competition that has drawn 200 biathletes from 32 nations. Russia, Norway and Germany

are expected to take the bulk of the medals.

First-Time Olympians Looking for Respect

Canadians Poised to Dominate Curling

By Harvey Araton
New York Times Service

KARUIZAWA, Japan — At Kazakoshi Park Arena, four women's curling matches began Monday morning, and after decades of languishing in demonstration-sport purgatory, they were finally playing for medals.

Beginning with their 7-6 women's victory over the United States and their men's match later in the day against Japan, the long-dominant Canadians were quite literally going for a gold-medal sweep.

This sport, dating from 16th century Scotland — ancient by mainstream sports standards — involves sliding round granite stones (with a weight not exceeding 44 pounds, or 20 kilograms) down a long sheet of ice into a 12-foot (3.65-meter) circle known as the house, while two sweepers with straw or synthetic brooms help steer the stone by reducing the friction between the running stone and the ice.

Don't tell a curler that the game is something like shuffleboard on ice. They insist they are elite athletes, as worthy of a medal as anyone else.

"Curling is a finesse sport, but it is also mentally and physically grueling," said Lisa Schoenberg, the American skip, or captain, who shoots fourth, or last, and devises the strategy for the team. In the 10 ends, curling's version of innings. "Our athletes train just as hard as those in any other sport."

That said, the curling arena is where one can say hello to Paul Savage, a 50-year-old Olympian.

Savage is the alternate for the Canadian men's team, a 39-year curling veteran who welcomed himself to the Nagano Games last week by standing up at a news conference, turning around and dropping his pants. He wanted to show off his new pants, a curling stone tucked inside the Canadian flag.

Such behavior is not so shocking, apparently, in curling circles, which enjoys its greatest popularity as a Canadian bowling-night-out.

Few towns in the prairies are without curling rinks. Major competitions are nationally televised and draw ratings that rank only behind hockey and baseball. The Olympic trials in Saskatoon,

Saskatchewan, drew 20,000. Most players, none of whom make their living at this, have nicknames, like the Canadian women's star and skip, Sandra Schmirler "the Curlier."

Arguably the most popular women's athlete in Canada, Schmirler, 34, out of Regina, Saskatchewan, has won three world championships, the last of which came in 1996 while she was six months pregnant. Three months later, during the Olympic trials, a match was interrupted while she took time out to breast feed her daughter.

"For five or six years I'd given my life to curling, and I wasn't going to do it any longer," she said. "I did what I had to do, and I think women are really good at that."

All right, this is not exactly the legendary material of cross-country, frost-on-the-bean skiing we are talking about, as the Canadian curler Eddie (the Wrench) Wernich would admit. Favored at the trials to make the Olympic team, Wernich, a fireman by trade, fell just short.

"I'm 50, overweight," he rationalized. "Standing on a podium, even I'd laugh."

The American men have a curler, in the third position, awaiting a kidney transplant. When Mike Pepinski, 24-year-old school teacher from Wisconsin, told his doctor he was going to the Olympics, the doctor replied, "And what sport are you playing in your condition?"

Curling nonetheless was granted full medal status after being a demonstration sport in 1924, 1932, 1988 and 1992. The game does require tremendous offensive and defensive skill, as when Canada's third, Jan Berker, scored a double-takeout in the 10th end Monday — knocking two American stones out of scoring position — as the American team, which trailed by 2-3, tried to rally for the upset victory.

The Canadian women, winners of five of the last six world titles, took a step toward adding the one elusive prize, an Olympic medal. The tournament runs seven days at the Games, with the men's and women's medals matches to be played Saturday and Sunday.

"This is the Olympics," Schmirler said. "We're going for the gold."



Casey FitzRandolph, who placed third Monday.

Shimizu Is Fastest as 11 Skaters Shatter 500-Meter Record

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — Eleven men broke the previous Olympic record for 500-meter speed skating Monday, as Hiroyasu Shimizu emerged in first place after the first day of racing and raised hopes here that he might become the first Japanese in the 1998 Games to win a gold medal.

Kevin Overland of Canada was in second place after

the first day, and Casey FitzRandolph of the United States was in third.

Shimizu, 23, a shy, mild-mannered man who is also now the world-record holder, did not claim any credit but instead scolded himself in front of a crowd of thrilled Japanese reporters. He said he was stiff around the first corner and did not concentrate enough during the race.

But then, with a twinkle in his eye, Shimizu added that he might be able to come up with an even faster time on Tuesday.

"If I get a good start tomorrow, I should be O.K.," he said.

A small man with longish hair dyed brown in the fashion of young rebels in Japan, Shimizu comes

across as relaxed and diffident — just the opposite of the intense figure he is on ice.

The skaters will race again Tuesday, and the medals will go to those with the lowest combined time for the two races.

The blizzard of records in part reflected new technology, for many of the skaters — including Shimizu — wore the new "clap skates" that are designed with a hinge at the front of the skate. That allows the skater to lift his foot without raising the skate by the same amount and is generally believed to produce faster times, after skaters get used to them.

The previous Olympic record, 36.33 seconds, fell in the first heat, as Ermanno Ioriatti of Italy roared in with 36.30 seconds. Theo FitzRandolph zipped around the course in 35.81 seconds, to set another record, and moments later Overland broke it again with 35.78. A few minutes later, the record fell yet again, as Shimizu came in first with 35.76. In all, 11 of the 42 skaters set times that surpassed the previous record.

"It was pretty fast today," said Derrick Auch, the Canadian coach. He said Jeremy Wotherspoon, a Canadian student who has won four of the six World Cup 500-meter races so far this season, would try on Tuesday to overcome his seventh-place rank in first-day racing, the result of a slip that forced him to touch the ice with his hand and slowed him down.

Lee Yong, South Korea, 3:40.407; 33. Albert Demchenko, Russia, disqualified; 34. Andrus Paul, Estonia, disqualified.

SPEED SKATING

FRONT STYLERS

1. Hiroyasu Shimizu, Japan, 35.76; 2. Kevin Overland, Canada, 35.81; 3. Casey FitzRandolph, United States, 35.87; 4. Sylvain Gagnon, Canada, 35.92; 5. Rintaro Yamada, Japan, 35.93; 6. Peter Schmid, Switzerland, 35.94; 7. C.-D. Lee, South Korea, 35.95; 8. K. Hwang, South Korea, 35.96; 9. Michael Klim, Canada, 35.97; 10. Norbert Huber, Italy, 36.00; 11. Mikito Hahn, South Korea, 36.03; 12. Lee Kyu-hyun, South Korea, 36.05; 13. Grzegorz Nizaj, Poland, 36.06; 14. Tadeusz Kowalewski, Poland, 36.07; 15. Tomasz Kowalewski, Poland, 36.08; 16. Toshiyuki Kubo, Japan, 36.09; 17. Gunji Rekis, Latvia, 36.10; 18. Jungsang Kim, South Korea, 36.11; 19. Tomasz Kowalewski, Poland, 36.12; 20. J. J. Lee, South Korea, 36.13; 21. Alexander Golubev, Russia, 36.14; 22. David Crotty, United States, 36.15; 23. S. K. Kim, South Korea, 36.16; 24. Pavel Abrosimov, Russia, 36.17; 25. Lihong Wang, China, 36.18; 26. Christoff Breuer, Germany, 36.19; 27. Li Yu, China, 36.20; 28. Tomasz Swiet, Poland, 36.21; 29. Valerii Shokhovskoyev, Kazakhstan, 36.22; 30. Zdenek Zelenka, Czech Republic, 36.23; 31. Andrei Kostylev, Russia, 36.24; 32. Petr Zelenka, Czech Republic, 36.25; 33. Roman Kostylev, Russia, 36.26; 34. Andrey Kostylev, Russia, 36.27; 35. Roman Kostylev, Russia, 36.28; 36. Roman Kostylev, Russia, 36.29; 37. Roman Kostylev, Russia, 36.30; 38. Roman Kostylev, Russia, 36.31; 39. Roman Kostylev, Russia, 36.32; 40. Roman Kostylev, Russia, 36.33; 41. Roman Kostylev, Russia, 36.34; 42. Roman Kostylev, Russia, 36.35.

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ART BUCHWALD

Legal Hat Trick

WASHINGTON — A group of lawyers was seated at the round table in the Hung Jury Lawyer Club in Washington when one said, "William Ginsburg just walked in. He did the hat trick by appearing on 'Meet the Press,' 'Face the Nation.' This Week With Sam and Cokie' and Fox News all in one morning."

Another lawyer said, "I would like to know who his booking agent is. I can't even get on the CBS 'Sunday Morning' show."

A third lawyer at the table said, "Did you hear about Fred Rubenstein? He tried a murder case, lost it, and his client has been sentenced to the electric chair."

"Is he going to appeal?"

"He was, but he got a job as Johnnie Cochran's co-host on Court TV."

Maxim's to Auction Wine in New York*The Associated Press*

PARIS — Maxim's in Paris is announced on Monday that it would auction off 14,000 bottles of wine — or 20 percent of its stock — at its New York restaurant next month.

The sale on March 7 will be held in New York to attract the many wine collectors who live there, said the Tajan auction house, which represents Maxim's in France. It is second wine auction. The first, in Paris in June 1997, brought in nearly \$2 million, part of which went to a foundation for the elderly and the disabled.



Buchwald

Margaret Bush said, "They want me to become the Monica Lewinsky legal expert on CNN, but I have a conflict of interest. I'm now the Linda Tripp expert for the Shopping News Channel."

The table agreed that it was a good time for lawyers.

One said, "You have to be a real dummy not to get on television. I have a partner who came out of the courthouse, and instead of walking toward the microphones, he pulled his client in the other direction and he never got on the air. We asked him to leave the firm."

"Has anyone heard that the University of Southern California is combining the law and drama schools so that lawyers will get better training in play-acting, and actors will get better instruction in lawyering?"

Another lawyer said, "Have you heard that the club is starting a karate course to help attorneys who are trying to escape from the media? The trick is to punch the photographers in the kidneys, and when you kick one below the belt don't bother to stop and pick him up off the ground."

"It's about time we learned self-defense against the paparazzi."

"You have to be real careful with the way press people handle their mikes. Channing Bush was running down the street from the courthouse, got into her car, but made the mistake of trying to fasten her safety belt. A correspondent from a radio talk show knocked out all her teeth."

Everyone agreed they would rather be lawyers than anything else, and at the end of the meal they all burst into song: "There's no business like show business . . ."



STARS AND ALL-STARS — The artist formerly known as Prince and the film director Spike Lee at court side for the NBA All-Star game in New York.

Will Pearl Jam Yield? High Road Gets Steeper*By Jon Pareles
New York Times Service*

SEATTLE — Eddie Vedder, Pearl Jam's leader, watches his words these days. He is wary of being misunderstood, or of seeming presumptuous, that he hesitates even to assign any meaning to the title of his band's new album, "Yield," which was released last week.

But he doesn't have to spell it out. For much of the 1990s, Pearl Jam has been famously unyielding as it has tried, quixotically, to make million-selling rock while keeping a clear conscience. If there has been an iconic 1990s rocker, it was Vedder circa 1993: brooding, earnest and increasingly uneasy with his own popularity.

It was around then that the band stopped making video clips and doing interviews. It made a kamikaze run against Ticketmaster, which controls ticket sales at most big American halls; in protest against the company's service charges, the band stopped performing at Ticketmaster halls and ended up barely touring America at all. It discovered that integrity has no fixed boundaries and that the struggle to maintain it presents endless pitfalls.

With "Yield," the band members say, Pearl Jam has decided to concentrate on music — recording and performing — while yielding to the realities of the music business in the 1990s. The group is likely to play shows at a few Ticketmaster halls in cities without nearby alternatives, and it's thinking about releasing a music video. More important, the band has recharged its music. "Yield," its fifth album, is as strong as the band's best previous one, "Vs.," from 1993.

"Let's say that hypothetically speaking, the title does mean something," Vedder says with a crooked smile. A week before the album's release, he shows up at Pearl Jam's headquarters, a warehouse in downtown Seattle, where the band has begun rehearsals for a world tour. "You can fight so much, and then you have to think, 'What are the real battles?' What's really important? You get to a certain point, and it's really hard to remember what music is and to remember what drives you."

Not that he thinks Pearl Jam's business choices, including its feud with Ticketmaster, have been misguided. "We've made decisions based on morals and ethics because we've got them," Vedder says. "That's our choice, and we're going to live by it. We reserve the right to screw up — not that we have yet, but we will."

At least since the 1960s, rockers have had an uneasy relationship with the demands of show business. While rock presents itself as the voice of idealism and rebellion, it also strives for mass popularity. The trick is to sell records and sell out concerts without appearing to sell out the fans.



Eddie Vedder, Pearl Jam's lead singer, asks: "What are the real battles?" R. Geller/Sygma

Pearl Jam, which has sold some 30 million albums worldwide, is at once a musical ensemble, a profit center, an object of media interest and a source of that elusive but prized quality, credibility. Rockers worry about credibility in ways other pop-culture figures can ignore. Nobody cares, for instance, that Pierce Brosnan as James Bond endorses everything from liquor to cars to telephone service.

But particularly in the 1990s, when promotional ploys are everywhere, it's hard to specify what constitutes a sellout. Punk-rock bands tour sponsored by shoe companies; 1960s hippie rockers sell beloved songs for laxative commercials; the Rolling Stones now allow Sprint to put a straight pin through the band's rolling-tongue logo.

While Pearl Jam's profitability gives the band clout, it also multiplies the stakes on every small business decision, like setting the price of a souvenir T-shirt or the service charge on a ticket. The band keeps altering business as usual; for instance, after its 1991 debut album, "10," Pearl Jam took full control of its CD packaging, switching to paper instead of plastic. And true to its own song "Spin the Black Circle," it has insisted that its albums be released on LPs as well as CDs, significantly boosting vinyl sales overall.

Most rockers find themselves somewhere on a spectrum between the Spice Girls, a brand name with times attached, and Fugazi, the paragon of uncompromised virtue that insists

on staying on an independent label and keeping both CD and concert ticket prices under \$10. But Fugazi plays clubs and measures album sales in the thousands; Pearl Jam is on a major label, Epic, and plays the worldwide arena circuit. In the aftermath of punk rock, which questioned the whole idea that bigger is better, Pearl Jam sometimes felt guilty about its own blockbuster popularity.

Pearl Jam arrived decisively with "10," which has sold nine million copies in the United States. Along with Nirvana, the band found itself leading Seattle's grunge invasion, and from the beginning its music combined muscle with misgivings. The brawny guitar riffs and Vedder's husky baritone were close to meat-and-potatoes hard rock, particularly on the band's first and most conventional album. That record sounded less radical than the manic-depressive songs of Nirvana, and it reached commercial radio stations that were still playing so-called classic rock.

Yet the lyrics, and the troubled tone of Vedder's singing, traded hard rock's fantasies of power for uncertainty and self-doubt, expressed in tales of abused children and people desperate to find a purpose. As Pearl Jam grew more confident on its next albums, "Vs." (1993) and "Vitalogy" (1994), the music added scrappy crosscurrents: hard-rock riffs, psychedelic jamming and folk-rock delicacy.

The songs were simultaneously heroic and insecure, and they were taken to heart by young listeners who were torn, like Vedder's lyrics, between self-righteousness and doubt. While Nirvana self-destructed, Pearl Jam persisted, and its sound was everywhere. For most of the 1990s, rock radio stations had filled their air time with Pearl Jam and imitators like the Stone Temple Pilots, Seven Mary Three, Bush and Creed.

Vedder quickly learned the drawback of having his face on television shows and magazine covers, he found himself besieged. Fans mobbed him when he went to a baseball or basketball game.

So Pearl Jam, contrary to 1990s routine, stopped making music videos and, until now, has also kept its distance from the usual rounds of print interviews and television appearances. In a way, the band was trying to return to the pre-MTV era, when most rock bands were audio presences, not celebrities. The band may have sacrificed the sales that exposure on MTV would have provided, but it was willing to make that trade-off.

"I don't know exactly how to say this," Vedder muses on his days of mass-media exposure. "But in a way, I feel like a cop. Every time I met someone, I had to judge if someone was being honest with me or not. It's too much work to analyze every person that comes up to you to see if they have an agenda. It's not healthy."

PEOPLE

EVERY comedian in every second-rate club in America must have a few minutes of good material on President Bill Clinton's latest troubles. Yet at Ford's Theatre in Washington, standing a few feet from the man himself, Whoopi Goldberg had to hold her tongue. "They gave me a whole list of stuff that I couldn't mess with," she cracked, brandishing a scroll that dragged along the stage. As host of "Festival at Ford's," the theater's annual gala benefit, she was reduced to joking about how she wasn't allowed to joke. The closest she got to the edge was a remark about using foul language on television: "I don't need to say [those words] anymore. Peter Jennings is saying them now," a reference to the ABC News anchorman. "It's hard, I'm telling you," she repeated often to the crowd, including dozens of senators, members of Congress and the cabinet. It was up to the magician David Copperfield to deliver the most topical line of the night. With Hillary Rodham Clinton by his side to assist in a magic trick, Copperfield handed a knife to a stanchion, saying, "Put this back in Kenneth Starr's office."

Asked to do a nude love scene with Tom Cruise in "Jerry Maguire," Renee Zellweger didn't have to think twice. "She was direct, looking me right in the eye," the director, Cameron Crowe, recalled in an article on Zellweger in Redbook. "It wasn't like, 'I'm a bashful girl. I'm in over my head.' None of that. It was 'I'm not going to do this. I believe I can make it without doing this. Meryl Streep never did nudity. I'm not her, but I'm me and I'm not gonna do it.'" Cameron let the relatively unknown actress make the call. The film's popularity brought lots of work for Zellweger in movies including "Deceiver" and the forthcoming "Price Above

Rubies" and "One True Thing," in which she co-starred with Streep.

Jody Williams, joint winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, said Monday that she planned to step down as head of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines but would keep her \$500,000 share of the prize money to fund her continued work with the ICBL and to write a book about the success of the campaign. "I will remain involved with the campaign, but I no longer want to be in charge on a day-to-day basis," Williams said. Williams and the ICBL, a network of 1,000

nongovernmental organizations in about 60 countries, were jointly awarded the prize for their campaign for a global treaty to ban anti-personnel land mines.

A Portuguese baker was honored as the maker of the best baguette in Paris, marking the first time in the five years the prize has been given that it has gone to someone not born in France. Mayor Jean Tiberi presented the 1998 grand prize to Antonio Teixeira, who came to France seven years ago from Portugal.

The Oscar and Tony Award winner Kevin Kline will perform "An Evening of Shakespeare" on Feb. 22 at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, to raise money for the Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy's \$5 million capital campaign. Kline is donating the performance, with ticket prices ranging from \$200 to \$500. "I believe every community should have its own theater, and it should be supported by the community," he said. "I think the theater gives us something that movies cannot."

Coppola to Be Honored

The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES — The director Francis Ford Coppola will receive the American Society of Cinematographers Board of Governors Award on March 8 for the body of his work, including "The Godfather" trilogy, "Apocalypse Now" and "The Conversation."



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